

Lebanon opposition calls protests

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese opposition representatives called on Monday for strikes and street protests in October against a government law banning scores of private television and radio stations. A followup committee — appointed last week by some 700 trade unionists, media workers, politicians and parliamentary deputies — proposed the plan of action to the executive Council of the General Labour Confederation Union (CGTL) for final approval. The committee called for a "sit-in" on Thursday outside the government headquarters and a one-day strike and a demonstration on Oct. 10 "in defense of liberties." It was not immediately known when the CGTL executive council would meet to look into the recommendation. Demonstrations are banned under a three-year old government decision.

Volume 21 Number 6340

AMMAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1996, JUMADA I, 18, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة منشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية والراي



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Washington summit on track despite Mubarak absence Netanyahu offers non-stop negotiations to overcome hurdles to autonomy agreement

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN, ISRAELI and Jordanian leaders met in Washington today (Tuesday) in a summit attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton in an effort to revive the Middle East peace process following bloody Israeli-Palestinian clashes sparked by Israel's reopening of a controversial tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem after months of stagnation in peace talks.

Earlier Monday, it looked as if the summit could be delayed upon Egyptian and Palestinian requests, but the U.S. plans remained on track after Palestinian President Yasser Arafat shook off Egyptian advice and said he would attend as promised.

"Our expectation is he is coming tonight and we look forward to it," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. "We understand there was some hesitation."

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were on their way to Washington to attend the summit, expected to begin today and could last until Wednesday.

But in a phone conversation Monday, Mr. Clinton failed to persuade Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to attend, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "It's not possible for Mubarak to be here for this discussion," Mr. McCurry told reporters. "We had hoped that he would come. We understand that there are other ways that he has been a significant part in this process."

Other sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Mr. Arafat's initial hesitation was prompted by the Egyptian government. Meanwhile, Boh Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, discussed Mideast developments with

his senior foreign policy advisers Monday. Jeane Kirkpatrick, ambassador to the U.N. during the Reagan administration, told reporters afterward that Mr. Dole was "deeply concerned" at the latest Mideast violence.

"The administration's foreign policy is in a serious state of disarray with one failure after another," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said.

Mr. Netanyahu, meanwhile, offered the Palestinians continuous negotiations to hammer out all remaining obstacles to implementing the autonomy accord.

Mr. Netanyahu added that he and Mr. Arafat would be directly involved in such negotiations.

Speaking to reporters en route to the summit in Washington, Mr. Netanyahu sought to create a positive atmosphere after peace talks were put in jeopardy by last week's clashes that killed 56 Palestinians and 14 Israelis.

A senior Netanyahu aide told reporters on his plane that the Israeli leader expected Mr. Arafat to reaffirm his renunciation of violence.

"I call on both sides immediately after the conference in Washington to enter into continuous negotiations at an agreed-upon location and to hold them until agreement is reached," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"Arafat and I... will be involved in a way that the decisions can be reached without unnecessary delays," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu is apparently looking for a Camp David-style meeting, similar to the one in 1979 in which Israeli and Egyptian negotiators closeted themselves in the Maryland presidential retreat until they reached their peace treaty.

These talks, however,

King leaves for U.S.; priority to put peace process back on track

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left on Monday for Washington where King Hussein will attend an Arab-Israeli summit aimed at saving the Middle East peace process.

The meeting, which starts Tuesday, was called for by U.S. President Bill Clinton following the recent developments in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The King and Queen were seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and other members of the Royal family along with the speakers of Parliament, Cabinet members and other high ranking officials.

The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the Council of Ministers. A Royal Decree was issued appointing Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour as acting prime minister during Mr. Kabariti's absence with the King abroad.

President Clinton called the summit to end unrest sparked by Israel's opening of a controversial tunnel that runs along Islamic holy



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon their departure for the U.S. on Monday (Petra photo)

shrines in Arab Jerusalem, a move which Jordan described as a unilateral attempt to impose its sovereignty over the Holy City.

Mr. Clinton said he was hoping that the summit would result in reviving the peace process.

The opening of the tunnel touched off violent confrontations between Israeli security forces and Palestinians and led to the death of nearly 60 Palestinians and 14 Israelis, raising serious questions about the

Regent: Jordan's role in Jerusalem shrines is a religious, historic duty

'Holy City represents the spiritual dimension of Arab-Israeli struggle'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's role in protecting the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem is part of the Kingdom's religious and historic duties as acknowledged by international law and is reaffirmed by its deep sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic World, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday.

The Regent, who held an open discussion at King Abdullah Mosque after Maghreb prayers, condemned the Israeli moves in the Holy City, particularly the opening of a controversial tunnel along the Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

The Crown Prince, who discussed several issues during the debate but focused particularly on the situation in Arab East Jerusalem, refuted allegations that Jordanian Agwat authorities in the Holy City had prior knowledge of Israel's plan to reopen the tunnel.

"Such allegations are fabricated and baseless," he said, expressing surprise over such suggestions.

Noong Jordan's historic role in defending the shrines in Arab East Jerusalem, the Regent said the Kingdom was not competing with anyone for the custodianship of the holy places.

The Kingdom considers the custodianship as being held in trust "until such time it could be returned to the Arab and Islamic fold of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)," he said.

The Regent said: "I would like to reiterate what His Majesty has already emphasised regarding Jordan's role in safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem that this role is part of Jordan's religious and historical duties acknowledged by international law."

"Such a duty is reaffirmed by Jordan's deep sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic World."

The Crown Prince stressed that Jerusalem was the spiritual dimension of the Arab-Israeli struggle inasmuch as the refugee issue represents the human dimension of the struggle.

Palestinians, Israelis continue joint patrols

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite last week's bloody fighting between Palestinians and Israelis, some of their joint patrols are still functioning, offering a glimmer of hope for getting back to normal.

"In our sector the joint patrols continue to operate as usual," Israeli border police Lieutenant-Colonel Nabil Abu Medien told Israel radio.

The patrols were a key element in the 1993 Oslo agreements as a means of boosting security and confidence once Israel started disengaging from West Bank and Gaza Strip towns.

But their future was thrown into doubt after Israeli and Palestinian police fought gun battles last week, killing nearly 60 Palestinians and 14 Israelis.

Col. Abu Medien is in charge of the joint patrols in the Gaza Strip, where they continued despite the fighting. In the West Bank they were suspended as soon as the fighting broke out, border police spokesman Yehoshua Bauer told the Associated Press.

Col. Abu Medien said his jeep was fired on by Palestinian police even though it was carrying Palestinians as well as Israelis. But the attackers were "not from the same unit that works with us day by day," he said.

Militiaman killed, two Israelis wounded in Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — An Israeli-allied militiaman and a Lebanese civilian were shot dead and two Israeli soldiers wounded in weekend violence in southern Lebanon, security sources said Monday.

The sources said a member of the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia was killed Saturday by "friendly fire."

The SLA militiaman was slain when an Israeli patrol mistakenly opened fire on SLA troops near the village of Beil Leef in the western sector of Israel's self-declared border "security zone" in the south.

A Lebanese civilian was also shot dead by Israeli troops who mistook a group of hunters for guerrillas infiltrating the security zone Saturday evening. An Israeli soldier was wounded when the hunters returned fire, the sources said.

A second Israeli soldier was wounded in a mortar attack Sunday by Hizbol-

Jordan lodges strong formal protest against Israeli bid to 'impose sovereignty on Arab East Jerusalem'

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Monday lodged a strong protest with Israel reaffirming Jordan's rejection of the Jewish state's moves to impose its sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti "summoned the Israeli ambassador (Shimon Shamir) and expressed the Jordanian position," Dr. Muasher told a weekly news briefing, adding that the meeting took place before Mr. Kabariti left

with His Majesty King Hussein to attend an Arab-Israeli peace summit in Washington.

The prime minister informed the ambassador of Jordan's demand that Israel respect not only all agreements signed with the Palestinians but also the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Dr. Muasher said.

Under the peace treaty, signed in October 1994, Israel acknowledged Jordan's "special role" in the Islamic holy places in Arab East Jerusalem. As such, Jordan expected Israel to inform the Kingdom in advance of any planned

measures related to the holy sites such as last week's reopening of a tunnel that runs along the Al Aqsa Mosque.

A formal protest handed over to Ambassador Shamin by Mr. Kabariti and addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was not honouring the provisions in the peace treaty.

"Jordan rejects all Israeli attempts to impose its sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem," Dr. Muasher told the briefing.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Kabariti also informed the Israeli ambas-

U.N. aide expects Iraq oil deal 'in a matter of weeks'

GENEVA (R) — United Nations Under-Secretary General Yasushi Akashi on Monday voiced optimism that the delayed "oil-for-food" deal meant to bring relief for the sufferings of ordinary Iraqis would go into force soon.

Mr. Akashi, top aide for humanitarian affairs to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, told a news conference he hoped the agreement could be implemented "in the near future," adding later that it might be "a matter of weeks."

"We hope that in the near future... we shall be able to do it," said Mr. Akashi, one of three Japanese high in the hierarchy of the world body, who is in Geneva for a conference on coordina-

tion of relief in disaster situations.

Asked later for a more precise prediction, he replied: "I cannot speculate but I think it will be a matter of weeks." Mr. Ghali, who played a key role in negotiating the deal, "is anxious to start this programme," he said.

Under the plan signed last May, U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and then was forced out in the Gulf war of early 1991 would be lifted to allow Baghdad to sell \$2 billion of oil over six months.

Of this \$1.13 billion would be earmarked under strict international supervision for the purchase of food and medical aid for an Iraqi population the U.N.

Bosnia's collective presidency holds first session in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb, Croat and Muslim members of Bosnia's newly-elected collective presidency arrived at a hotel in Sarajevo on Monday for their first session since they were elected earlier this month, officials said.

The presidency chairman, Muslim representative Alija Izetbegovic, was the last to arrive at the "Saraj" hotel on the eastern exit out of the city centre.

Reporters near the hotel said Mr. Izetbegovic arrived around 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), one hour after the

Croat representative Kresimir Zubak and 45 minutes after the Serb presidency member Momcilo Krajisnik.

It was not immediately clear why he was late.

International mediators had struggled for two weeks to broker an agreement over the venue for the first session.

Mr. Izetbegovic and Mr. Zubak both wanted the meeting in central Sarajevo, but Mr. Krajisnik said he did not feel safe there, and

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Taleban try to enforce own version of Islamic edicts

ISLAMABAD (R) — The militantly Muslim Taleban movement which now controls Afghanistan's capital of Kabul has acted quickly to try to enforce its fundamentalist Islamic principles on the country.

After banning women from working in offices, it ordered all government employees to grow long beards and said no religious funeral could be held for executed former President Najibullah.

Official Kabul Radio announced the decisions hours after the special U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, Norbert Hol, said he saw hopeful signs in talks with Kabul's new hard-line rulers on such issues as women's work outside the home.

Taleban, which set up an interim government after its fighters captured Kabul last Friday, had earlier ordered women not to leave their homes without the "hejab" veil or to work in offices.

Its latest order said all men employed in government offices and in the military would face Islamic punishment unless they grew beards within the next month and a half.

It did not specify what penalties would be imposed under Islamic law on any violators. It said workers would not be allowed to have short beards, but it did not say how long a beard should be.

Some orthodox Muslim scholars say growing a beard is a must for a Muslim to fol-

low the Sunnah, or tradition of the Prophet Mohammad, but many others say it is not necessary and Taleban's insistence on beards seemed highly unusual. Attitudes towards such issues as the role of women and the importance of strict observance of the letter of the Koran vary from one Muslim country to another. Some are highly Westernised while in other, strict societies such as Saudi Arabia, women are banned from driving cars.

Taleban, a militant Sunni Muslim movement which grew out of religious schools in refugee camps in Pakistan, also said no Islamic funeral service could be held for Najibullah because he was a communist and "murderer of innocent Afghans."

Al Sabeel chief editor freed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The chief editor of a weekly mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood has been released from detention, but it remained in dispute on Monday whether he faced trial and whether the possible charges (s) were related to the Press and Publications Law or security laws.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told a weekly press briefing that Hilmi Asmar, chief editor of Al Sabeel, was released on bail and that he would face trial in a court of law. He did not give details of the charges (s).

"Mr. Asmar has been freed on bail, and he will be formally charged and put on trial," Dr. Muasher told the briefing, adding that Mr. Asmar was arrested "because he was the chief editor of the weekly" and not because he had written a report for Al Sabeel that the government says was unfounded and false.

But Mr. Asmar, reached by telephone, told the Jordan Times that he was "released without conditions" after 11 days in detention and that he faced no charges.

Mr. Asmar was arrested shortly after Al Sabeel carried a front-page story alleging that an Islamist activist, Issam Najjar, was tortured during detention.

The government rejected the torture charges and said Al

Sabeel was "pressured" into carrying the "false report" by the main opposition group, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which sought to tarnish the image of the executive authority.

Several international organisations that seek to defend journalists around the world had sent appeals to His Majesty King Hussein for the release of Mr. Asmar as well as other journalists facing charges of violating the Press and Publications Law as well as security laws.

"I was told that I was being released unconditionally," Mr. Asmar said Monday. He said he was held in solitary confinement but was otherwise "treated well."

According to Mr. Asmar, he was questioned throughout the detention but the questions focused on "how Al Sabeel came to carry the story" of Mr. Najjar.

Mr. Asmar, vice president of the Jordan Press Association, also rejected charges that the IAF, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, had pressured him into carrying the report. He said the decision to publish the story was taken by the executive bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is not a political party but a charity organisation.

"Al Sabeel is not affiliated with the IAF," he maintained. "The weekly is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and reflects the views of the

Brotherhood."

But observers noted that it was very difficult to draw a line between the Brotherhood and the IAF when it comes to conveying the viewpoints of Jordan's mainstream Islamists.

Al Majd, another local weekly tabloid, reported in its latest issue that the government had offered a "compromise" to Al Sabeel under which no charges would be pressed against the Islamist weekly if it carried an "open apology and correction" of the report concerning Mr. Najjar.

According to Al Majd, the Muslim Brotherhood rejected the compromise.

No government comment was immediately available on the Al Majd report.

A prominent IAF deputy, Bassam Emoush, who heads the Public Freedoms Committee in the Lower House of Parliament, has called for the formation of a committee to investigate whether detainees were tortured in prison.

The government has said that all the detention facilities in Jordan are accessible to international and Arab human rights organisations like the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights as well as others.

No human rights organisation has charged recently that detainees were tortured in Jordan.



The cargo ship Seawolf 103 (background) awaits the boarding of approximately 1,300 illegal immigrants leaving the UAE on Monday. The Indian Association in Dubai organised the five-day voyage to Bombay, and had some of the facilities on the freighter upgraded to cope with the large number of passengers (Reuters photo)

Illegal foreigners in UAE to take cargo ship home

DUBAI (R) — More than 1,000 illegal aliens prepared to board a cargo ship in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday for a five-day voyage to India, eager to leave for home ahead of a new law cracking down on unlawful foreign labour.

The passengers — all men — will sleep on two levels of wooden planks in the dark, windowless hull of the 3,500-tonne Seawolf 103, which usually carries such cargoes as sugar and rice. Workers bailed aboard 20 makeshift toilets — wooden boxes with a hole set above a bucket.

The 1,300 people preparing to board are among an

estimated 200,000 illegal workers scrambling to leave the oil-rich UAE, taking advantage of a government amnesty that gives them until Oct. 31 to get their papers in order or get out.

Because of what the shipping agents called "hardship conditions", no women were allowed on board. "It's all emergency arrangements," said the ship's agent Abdullah Kapadia. "You can't make heaven for the passengers. The only idea is to get them home cheap and safe."

Thousands of foreign workers — primarily from the Indian subcontinent but also from Southeast Asia —

have been rushing to leave the UAE by plane and small launches to avoid tough penalties when the new law takes effect on Nov. 1.

Foreigners make up about 75 per cent of the 2.4 million population in the small Gulf state. Many came to the Gulf legally, but broke the law by failing to leave when their visas expired or working for employers other than their sponsor. The government says they are a threat to the UAE's security.

If they are caught after the deadline, they face punishments including fines, prison terms and deportation.

The UAE estimates some

140,000 illegal aliens will depart during the three-month amnesty. Diplomats say as many as 300,000 could leave. But embassies said they had issued about 100,000 exit permits and the number of applicants was dwindling.

Air India officials said the airline had carried almost 19,000 Indian amnesty-seekers back home over the past week. The Dubai Airport Authority said an average of 5,000 amnesty-seekers were departing through the airport every day.

The men waiting to board the Seawolf huddled together at Dubai's Hamraiya Port, squinting in the blazing sun next to suitcases,

plastic bags and cardboard boxes bearing their names.

"I worked here as a mason but I had no legal papers," said a man who gave his name only as Lamber. Heading home to his wife and three small children in Punjab, "I came for the money."

Mutu, who said he had worked as a "helper" in Dubai, carried nothing but a small plastic bag for his journey home. "This ship's no good because it's for cargo, not people," he said. "But I don't have any money so I don't have any choice."

Two journalists face lese majeste charges in October trial

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two freelance journalists, one of them still on the run, are expected to go on trial on Oct. 15 on lese majeste charges related to their writings following the unrest in the south in mid-August, reports in the local press said Monday.

The reports said Abdullah Abu Rouman, who was detained last month, and Nabeel Hattar, who remains a fugitive, will be charged with "distributing articles that insulted the dignity of His Majesty the King."

If convicted, the two could be sentenced to jail from one week to three years under article 195 of the penal code, local reports said.

Mr. Hattar, a columnist for the weekly Shihab, evaded arrest and went into hiding shortly after police raided an office he and Mr. Abu Rouman maintained in Amman ahead of the planned launching of a weekly tabloid (the authorities have turned down the application for a licence for the weekly, and Mr. Hattar was reported to be planning a legal challenge to the refusal in a court of law).

Documents seized by police during the raid included originals of articles that are believed to be the basis for the lese majeste charges against Mr. Hattar as well as Mr. Abu Rouman.

The articles, according to reports, criticised the authorities for their decision to increase the price of bread and rechannel subsidies in the form of direct cash compensation to Jordanians.

No details were immediately available on the precise nature of the contents of the articles that are deemed to be slanderous.

Writing in Shihab from his hiding place, Mr. Hattar said three weeks ago that he was willing to surrender to the authorities in return for guarantees that he would not be "tortured" in detention. The government has repeatedly denied that detainees were tortured.

Local tabloids' coverage of the Aug. 16-17 riots in the south have led to a series of cases against journalists, most of them involving alleged violations

of the Press and Publications Law. Others are related to charges of direct involvement in inciting the unrest and in violent rampages against public and private property.

Four journalists from Al Bilad weekly face charges of violating the Press and Publications Law. The weekly is accused of carrying "unfounded and inaccurate reports that instigate public passion." They will be tried by a special court that deals with violations of the press law. The trial is scheduled to begin on Oct. 3. Reporter Fuad Hussein of Al Aswaq, who remains in detention, faces charges of instigating sedition. It is not known when Mr. Hussein, who was arrested on Aug. 19, will be put on

trial. Mr. Hussein, known to be a pro-Iraqi party activist, is a member of the executive council of the Jordan Press Association, and head of its freedom committee.

Osama Rantissi, chief editor of Al Ahali, faces charges of violating the Press and Publications Law. Al Ahali is the mouthpiece of the Jordan People's Democratic Party. Several members of the party are among those expected to go on trial on charges of instigating direct involvement in the southern riots.

Officials declined comment on the cases saying it was up to the prosecutors and the courts to rule when formal charges were pressed.

Under the patronage of
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 The diplomatic corps accredited to the Royal Court will organise the Annual Bazaar of Mabarrat Um Al-Hussein Orphanage on Thursday, October 3, 1996 at Greater Amman Hall at Al-Hussein Sports City.
 Forty five Arab and foreign embassies are taking part in the one-day Bazaar, and they will display for sale products from their countries, as well as foodstuffs and traditional dishes.

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15:20.....Iris — The Happy Professor

15:30.....Captain Planet

15:45.....Comedy — ALF

16:10.....Road to Aonivia

17:00.....News Flash

17:02.....Sciences Cartoon

17:15.....La Vie Devani Moi

17:30.....Game Show — Les Bons Genies

18:00.....Varieties — L'Intégrale: Patrick Gruel

19:00.....Le Journal

19:15.....Magazine — Ushuaia

19:30.....News Headlines

19:35.....Doc. — Blossom

20:00.....Documentary — Man Alive Encounter

20:45.....Varieties — The Next Generation

22:00.....News in English

22:00.....Mission Impossible

23:15.....China Beach

23:59.....My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

04:08.....Fajr

05:25.....(Sunrise) Doha

11:26.....Dhuhr

14:49.....Asr

17:27.....Maghrib

18:44.....Isha

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ly to northeasterly moderate. In Agaba, it will dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

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Deserts.....16/34

Jordan Valley.....23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Agaba 56 per cent.

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Al Salama pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Natroukh pharmacy.....623672

Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baldr.....276852

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi.....989601

Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Dept.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341

Civil Defence Emergency...199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade.....617101

Bank Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Department.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television.....773111

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
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Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6

Aldieb Maternity.....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity.....643362

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital.....674155

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Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

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12:00.....Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

12:10.....Paris (RJ)

13:05.....London (RJ)

13:45.....Cairo (RJ)

13:55.....Madrid (RJ)

20:20.....Jeddah (RJ)

20:30.....Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)

20:45.....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

21:20.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:30.....Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

03:00.....Beirut, Athens (OA)

07:45.....Beirut (ME)

08:15.....London (BA)

10:15.....Cairo (MS)

14:45.....Munich (YP)

16:00.....Rome (AZ)

19:25.....Dubai (EK)

19:45.....Kuwait (KL)

21:50.....Aden (IY)

21:50.....Tel Aviv (LY)

23:55.....Bucharest (RO)

03:00.....Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:00 Agaba (Marka Airpon (RW)

19:30 Agaba (Marka Airport proceeding to QAIA) (RW)

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Garlic.....700/450

Grapes.....530/250

Guava.....600/350

Lemon.....350/250

Marrow (large).....200/150

Marrow (small).....350/220

Mulukiah.....150/90

Onion (dry).....150/70

Okra.....1650/700

Pea.....600/400

Pepper (hot).....300/200

Pepper (sweet).....350/180

Plum.....650/450

Pomegranate.....380/220

Potato.....300/180

Spinach.....340/200

String Bean.....680/400

Tomato.....210/120

Watermelon.....100/50

WEATHER				MARKET PRICES			
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Temperatures are expected to rise becoming slightly above average and winds northwester-				Apple.....			
				Banana.....			
				Banana (mukhammar).....			
				Banana (imported).....			
				Cabbage.....			
				Carrot.....			
				Cauliflower.....			
				Cucumber (large).....			
				Cucumber (small).....			
				Eggplant.....			
				Garlic.....			
				Grapes.....			
				Guava.....			
				Lemon.....			
				Marrow (large).....			
				Marrow (small).....			
				Mulukhiyah.....			
				Onion (dry).....			
				Okra.....			
				Pea.....			
				Pepper (hot).....			
				Pepper (sweet).....			
				Plum.....			
				Pomegranate.....			
				Potato.....			



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday reviews cooperative efforts in human resource development and the refugee problem with visiting Australian Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Philip Ruddock at the Royal Court. In the discussion, Prince Hassan stressed that regional security should encompass the concept of economic development. The meeting was attended by Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat and Australian Ambassador to Jordan Merilyn Wickes. Mr. Ruddock is on a regional tour that includes the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Lebanon in addition to Jordan (Petra photo)

Germany allocates \$650,000 for technology project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Friedrich Nauman Foundation (FNF) of Germany Monday announced a new project for transferring advanced technology to the Kingdom beginning in 1997.

The plan is also slated to help initiate small and medium-sized industrial projects, according to FNF representative in Jordan Walter Rüdell.

Mr. Rüdell said the German government has allocated \$650,000 for this project, which is aimed at providing technical training to those wishing to commence entrepreneurial operations and that the plan will be carried out in cooperation with the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade and

the Jordanian Businessmen's Association.

Mr. Rüdell further remarked that this undertaking comes in appreciation of Jordan's efforts to achieve a comprehensive resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that its economy holds potential in an era of democracy and peace despite the present difficulties the country faces.

According to Mr. Rüdell, Germany is initiating similar projects in Egypt and Palestine and could extend its partnership to other countries in the future.

He lauded Jordanian efforts to reconstruct its national economy.

Also Monday Mr. Rüdell announced that the fund, in

conjunction with the Jordanian Environment Society, will organise a seminar Wednesday regarding economic development in Aqaba and that the seminar will cover environmental issues surrounding tourist, industrial and service projects and their impact on the general population, the environment and marine ecology.

He said that Aqaba projects such as the new airport, the petroleum refinery and the Red-Dead Sea canal are bound to attract more workers and thus augment the present population of Aqaba by an estimated 50,000 people over the next decade.

IAF demands abolition of one-person, one-vote system

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is determined to engage in a political battle for the abolition of the one-person, one-vote system and will reject any measure to maintain the current formula, IAF Secretary General Ishaq Farhan said Monday.

Commenting on the announcement made also Monday by Minister of Information Marwan Muasher that "the Cabinet is studying a new electoral law, and consultations are continuing among all parties to draft a proposal," Dr. Farhan said that "a public debate should be opened over any draft election law the government intends to present."

"I advise the government to listen to feedback from the people before taking any step," he warned in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

The IAF will fight "by all democratic means" for the abolition of the one-person, one-vote system and ethnic and religious minority quotas, IAF Executive Bureau Member Abdul Latif Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

On the grounds that the

current system encourages tribalism and prevents "a truthful representation of the people in Parliament," Dr. Farhan and Dr. Arabiyat defined the temporary election law, introduced by Royal Decree prior to the 1993 general elections, as "anti-democratic and backward."

"Democracy is built on the confidence of the people in the government, but if the one-person, one-vote system is not abolished, as all the people want, such confidence will be breached," Dr. Arabiyat warned.

In a weekly meeting with the press, Dr. Muasher said yesterday that "the government will not send the draft law before the Parliament without a major agreement on both sides," (the government and the opposition).

"We look forward to securing a parliamentary majority in support of the law, but we have not reached such a stage yet," the minister admitted.

The introduction of a new election law was one of the main points of the programme presented by the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti when it came to power early this year.

According to Drs. Farhan

and Arabiyat, the IAF, Jordan's largest opposition group, will approach the government with three possible alternatives to the 1993 electoral law.

— Divide the country into as many districts as the number of parliamentary seats, so that each district elects one representative, and each voter elects one candidate;

— Create one single national electoral district covering the entire Kingdom;

— Revert back to the election law applied during the 1989 elections.

The enforcement of the one-person, one-vote system in the 1993 elections, the first multi-party elections to be held in the Kingdom after 1956, was seen by many observers as an attempt to reduce the number of Islamists in Parliament.

The number of IAF deputies dropped from 22 in the 11th (1989-1993) Parliament, to 17 in the current legislature. (Two IAF deputies resigned from the party earlier this year).

The one-person, one-vote system aimed at minimising Islamist representation, but, though we lost five seats, the volume of votes for the IAF increased

from 19 to 23 per cent," Mr. Arabiyat said.

Strongly rejecting the possibility of participating in the current government and reiterating the front's demand for Prime Minister Kahariti's resignation, IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour two weeks ago asked the Cabinet for a "modern election law, that is fair and democratic."

The Islamists, IAF members as well as independents, appear united in their stand against the one-person, one-vote system.

Former IAF member and Deputy Ahmad Kasasbeh (Karaki, who withdrew from the front following his abstention in last February's vote of confidence in the Kabariti government, defined the current election law as "an attempt against the country's unity."

"If there are 10 seats to be covered, each voter should be given the opportunity to express 10 preferences," Dr. Kasasbeh said, calling for a reinforcement of the previous electoral law, "with some amendments."

"All quotas should be abolished, as all Jordanians are equal in the eyes of the Constitution," said Dr. Kasasbeh.

"The quota system is a form of discrimination by

faith and race, therefore anti-constitutional," echoed Dr. Arabiyat.

The present law reserves nine seats for Christians, three for Circassians and six for bedouins.

"No developed democracy in the civilised world still maintains the system of quotas for minorities," Dr. Arabiyat said.

Circassian Deputy Toujan Faisal, the only woman elected in the 12th parliament, won her seat in the Third District with 1,885 votes, while her colleagues in the same district, IAF Ibrahim Kilani and Progressive Democratic Alliance (PDA)'s Taher Masri and Ali Abul Ragheb were elected with 9,134, 8,789 and 8,162 votes respectively.

In Madaba District, C' Deputy Samih Farah won his seat with 1,969 votes, while the two other legislators for the same district, Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh (a Liberal Party member and also current Minister of Labour) and Abdul Majid Aqtash (IAF) were elected with nearly 4,000 votes each.

Jordan, Germany pledge security cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the German Federal Criminal Investigation Department, led by Bernhard Falk, Wednesday met with the Public Security Department (PSD) Director Nasouh Muhieddin to discuss cooperation between the two countries in police and security affairs.

Mr. Falk had earlier toured a number of security departments where he described existing bilateral security cooperation as very satisfactory, adding that the exchange of visits by police officials encourages such cooperation.

Among the departments he visited was the anti-narcotics department where he was briefed on measures for combating drug trafficking and drug peddling in the Kingdom.

Mr. Falk was also informed about police

British delegation arrives for trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting British delegation here to study market and trade prospects Monday said that it is considering appointing Jordanians to distribute British products in Jordan.

During a meeting with

Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Haidar Murad, Barry Precious, chief representative of the British team, which represents the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Trade, said, "Our meetings with businessmen and members of the Chambers of Industry and Trade in Amman are bound to create fresh opportunities for investment cooperation with the country."

The 14-member British delegation, which arrived in Amman Thursday, comprises a large sampling of British industrial firms and has been conducting detailed discussions with the local business community, Mr. Precious said. He added that the majority of his delegation's contacts have been with the private sector.

The team's members represent organisations which manufacture processed food, glass and crystal, electrical appliances, industrial equipment, paper, textiles, handbags, leather, rubber and maintenance equipment.

Referring to bilateral trade, Mr. Precious calculated that in the past year, his country exported £120 million worth of goods to Jordan and imported £21 million worth of Jordanian products.

The British delegation includes persons responsible for educational and vocational training in universities who are seeking to collaborate with educational institutions or large firms, he said.

During Monday's meeting, Mr. Murad briefed the delegation on the chamber's activities and its role in the national economy and in promoting relations with Europe.

British and Jordanians have succeeded in implementing joint projects in the field of contracting and consultancy services, Mr. Murad said, adding that the Jordanian government has exempted 492 commodities from customs duty slated for new economic projects in a bid to encourage investment.

International Senior Citizens Day to be celebrated today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will observe International Senior Citizens Day today through a number of functions organised by the Ministry of Social Development, according to a ministry statement Monday.

The ministry has prepared special public programmes in the various governorates to increase awareness of attention and care for senior citizens, the statement said. It affirmed that Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous will attend a ceremony Tuesday at the House for the Aged in Jweideh in southern Amman.

The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe the 1999 as International Senior Citizens' Year, "in recognition of humanity's demographic coming of age and the promise it holds for matur-

ing attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, cultural and spiritual undertakings, not least for global peace and development in the next century."

The General Assembly's statement continued that "without doubt, longevity is one of the great achievements of the 20th century. By the end of the century, the ageing of the world's population will have added 20 years to the average life (span). But together with declining fertility, longevity is also producing unprecedented challenges to citizens and policy-makers, for instance, the protection of economic and social security of older persons."

The UN Secretary General, Boutros Ghali, issued a message on the eve of International Senior Citizens Day to affirm that "the political and intellectual

contribution to society of older persons is demonstrated every day and on every continent. But for a growing number of people, poverty and discrimination all too often render participation and an active older age impossible. All too often, older persons are excluded, ignored and forgotten."

He continued "it is for this reason that the UN has consistently supported the fundamental right of older persons to a productive and economically secure life. To this end we have introduced a comprehensive Plan of Action on Ageing, which recommends measures to be taken by member states in all relevant fields: education, employment, the environment, health and social welfare."

Minister inaugurates mental health facilities

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Health Aref Bataineh Monday announced the construction of two mental health facilities to be built in the Irbid governorate.

The facilities, he specified, will have a capacity of 100 and 60 beds.

During a tour of the Irbid governorate, Dr. Bataineh said the ministry was eager to develop medical and health centres to alleviate hospital pressures.

He affirmed that a forensic medical centre and auxiliary units are also under construction in Ramtha Hospital in the same governorate.

Also today Dr. Bataineh inaugurated the Comprehensive Health Centre in Taybeh which was built on a 3-dunum area at a total cost of JD 215,000.

The Taybeh centre includes speciality clinics, radiography, dentistry clinics, mother and child care centres, emergency services, a laboratory and a pharmacy.

The centre will offer services to 30,000 citizens in the Taybeh subdistrict.

Subsequently, Dr. Bataineh inaugurated Al Tawal Health Centre, comprising 270 square metres and serving the western Irbid Governorate.

He then inspected the Qomeim, Al Hay Al Shamali, Al Razi Health and Irbid Health Directorate Centres in Irbid and was briefed on their services.

Accompanying the minister were Irbid Governor Qattan Majali, the Irbid Police Chief and other governorate officials.



Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Monday meets with a British delegation of the Overseas Education Foundation. Dr. Jaradat reviewed issues related to administrative development with the visiting delegation and the potential training of ministry cadres (petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

France, Jordan review transportation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transportation Nasser Lawzi Monday received French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet in his office and the two reviewed bilateral relations in transportation areas.

Exposition to head for Ramallah

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian Industrial Exposition will be held in the West Bank city of Ramallah October 13 through 20. This is the first such exposition and the Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation which organised the exhibit stated that 104 companies are taking part.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Bonny and Clyde" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES

* "Eulenspiegel — Nasereddin — Joha" (in German) by Dr. Dieter Glade at the Modern Language Centre, University of Jordan, at 11:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* "The Fifth One-Dimension Exhibition" by several artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Tel. 862105), until Oct. 10.

* Works by Mohammad Al Jalous at Baladna Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.

* Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.

* Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.

* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tammari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khamas, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

Another N. Korean infiltrator shot dead; search extended to DMZ

SEOUL (AFP) — Another North Korean infiltrator was shot dead Monday as South Korean troops, helped by U.S. surveillance helicopters, extended their hunt for the remnants of the crew from a stranded submarine.

The killing left only three North Korean infiltrators still at large. Twenty-two have been shot dead, or executed, apparently at the hands of their own colleagues, and one taken alive.

The infiltrator in civilian clothes ignored an order to surrender and opened fire before trying to run away, triggering a barrage of fire by our troops," Colonel Kang Chang-Shik said.

A South Korean army corporal was accidentally shot dead by colleagues overnight, bringing to five the number of South Korean trackers shot dead in the hunt involving some 60,000 troops.

One civilian has also been killed in crossfire since the submarine ran aground on Sept. 18, sparking the hunt for the estimated 26 crew who fled ashore.

The search has also been expanded to the southern outer fence of the four-kilometre wide demilitarised zone (DMZ).

Separating the two Koreas, Brigadier General Kim Kyong-Duk said.

The DMZ has been fortified with concrete walls,

electrified fences and mines on both sides since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a fragile truce, leaving the two Koreas technically still at war.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that the infiltrators already escaped through our cordon. If so, they may seek to pass over the DMZ," Mr. Kim said.

Yonhap news agency said troops rushed overnight to northeastern border areas where an OH-58 U.S. surveillance helicopter spotted a suspected infiltrator fleeing Sunday night.

"We are helping with less than a dozen helicopters with night vision devices, and communications support so that the helicopters can talk to the ground troops," U.S. army spokesman Jim Coles said.

The OH-58 is the same type of helicopter which was shot down in December 1994 after straying into North Korea. The incident left one U.S. pilot dead and the second held captive and returned later.

The United States has some 37,000 troops in South Korea, but U.S. ground forces have not been engaged in the massive hunt.

The border sweep came as the two Koreas were exchanging vitriolic verbal barrages over a North Korean demand to return the wrecked sub and its crew.

last week, North Korea

threatened to retaliate against what it called South Korea's "ill-intentioned" campaign over the submarine and a "brutal operation to kill the survivors."

"Our retaliation may be hundredfold or thousandfold. Firing should be answered with firing," Pyongyang warned, arguing the sub had drifted south while on a training mission.

Seoul has flatly rejected the demand, citing the prisoner as saying the sub had been on a spy pickup mission, and the discovery of a detailed land map of the area where the sub grounded.

Over the weekend the Defence Ministry accused the Communist North of sending the sub South for reconnaissance "aimed at additional, larger-scale military provocation."

Meanwhile, North Korea accused the South Monday of cold-blooded murder of soldiers and crew members of the submarine.

In a statement issued through its mission in Geneva, Pyongyang also charged that Seoul was using the incident to distract attention from problems at home and from difficulties in its relationship with the United States and Japan.

"The soldiers from the North side (on board the submarine) should have been rescued and protected because they were in danger after an accident in the sea

while engaging in training," the statement said.

But, it added, the South Korean authorities mobilised tens of thousands of troops, police and reservists to hunt down and kill the soldiers and the submarine's crew who, it said, "had no self-defence arms."

"In the course of this, nearly 20 soldiers of the North side were killed in cold blood," the North Korean statement said.

The North Korean statement said that while the South accepted from the start of the incident that the submarine was stranded and that the men on board had no choice but to go ashore, it used the incident for "sinister political purposes."

"To the consternation of the people, the soldiers of the North side were branded by the South Korean authorities as 'armed spies' and 'armed communist bandits,'" it declared.

"There were no grounds or conditions for them to become the target of gun firing," the English-language statement said.

"They had no arms and equipment needed for intrusion or destruction. Moreover, those who were killed were the crewmen, including the captain, the chief engineer and the navigator."

"What could they do on land after abandoning the boat?" the statement asked.



Burmese policemen patrol on the road near pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's house in Rangoon. Around Ms. Suu Kyi's house the Burmese capital could appear to be a city under siege but in the rest of Rangoon life continues normally as most residents appeared unaffected by heavy armed police presence (Reuter photo)

Burma keeps up pressure on NLD

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's military authorities kept up their blockade of Aung San Suu Kyi's residence Monday as estimates of the number of her supporters detained in the last five days rose to around 500.

Kyi Maung, a leader of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League For Democracy (NLD), told a small group of foreign visitors late Sunday that between 400 and 420 party organisers had been rounded up in Rangoon townships.

Prior to the round-up of the party organisers, 109 delegates to an NLD congress scheduled to begin Friday were also detained.

The authorities may have already released some of the first group of detainees, as their original intention was believed to have been to stop the congress, not to launch a major crackdown, sources said.

Earlier in the week, provincial authorities had allowed delegates to travel to Rangoon to attend the congress.

On Saturday, some 100 NLD supporters were taken off the streets by armed riot police at checkpoints near Aung San Suu Kyi's house near the time she was to have given her customary address to the public.

For the first time since her release from house arrest last July, the NLD leader was prevented this weekend from holding meet-the-public sessions, which the government has warned could

be stopped if they were considered a threat to law and economic order.

While barricades and strict security remained on the approaches to the NLD leader's lakeside residence, Rangoon appeared normal Monday.

Many Burmese who talked to reporters appeared upset when the subject of the detentions was mentioned and were reluctant to comment.

Meanwhile, the junta fired another salvo in its propaganda war on the NLD, accusing the main opposition party of subverting the Buddhist clergy and infiltrating the monkhood.

Lieutenant-General Myo Nyunt called on senior monks to weed out "subversive elements," warning that the NLD was using religion to make "political capital," the official Mirror Daily reported.

He explained to monks that the NLD congress had been prevented for fear of a breakdown in national security.

SLORC statements in official newspapers at the weekend said the NLD's congress could trigger "disturbances" and the "destabilisation of the country," similar to 1988.

The junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), assumed power in 1988 after a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations against the previous military government.

"I don't think 1988 is

going to happen again. It is possible that wiser heads will prevail, and that is what we want," a foreign diplomat in Rangoon said.

But observers said the NLD had to force the issue if it was to counter the government strategy of denying the party a platform while also denying Ms. Suu Kyi status as a martyr.

"The NLD strategy is 'either talk to us or arrest us,'" and the party leader appeared to be ready to push the authorities, an informed source said.

An NLD statement issued Saturday denied the party was trying to undermine stability, and said it should not be necessary for a political party to seek permission "to carry out legitimate activities."

On Monday the U.S. embassy in Rangoon denied junta allegations that it was helping to orchestrate NLD activities.

Embassy personnel met many people from the government, the opposition and other organisations, as Burmese embassy personnel do in the United States, to keep informed about the internal situation, an official said.

In another development, under pressure from the military authorities, the owner of the NLD's Shwedagon headquarters in Rangoon evicted the party and torn down its sign, although the rent was paid through the end of the year, informed sources said.

Baltic leaders pledge greater effort to join NATO

RIGA (R) — The presidents of the Baltic states have pledged to step up their campaign for NATO membership after U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said last week that the three countries were not yet ready for the alliance.

Mr. Perry, speaking Friday after a meeting of NATO defence ministers in the Norwegian port of Bergen, said the three countries were still unable to defend other alliance members.

"A key feature of the military alliance is the ability to come to the defence of all other members of the alliance if they come under attack," the U.S. cabinet member said. "Therefore each nation in the alliance has to have military forces that have some minimum capability and some degree of compatibility with NATO forces."

"In my judgment the Baltic nations do not have that kind of capability yet, but they are working very hard to get it," he added.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania remain anxious to obtain strong security guarantees five years after quitting the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Perry's remarks represented the first open statement on the subject, although alliance diplomats have for some time that the three countries were unlikely to make it into a first round of NATO enlargement.

But in a statement released last Saturday, Presidents Lennart Meri of Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania said their countries were committed to NATO entry as soon as possible.

"To these ends we announce today the following steps: First we are launching an intensified diplomatic effort to gain the support of all countries for our security via NATO membership and bilateral security arrangements by Western countries," the three leaders said.

They also said their countries would make the sacrifices needed to upgrade their forces to bring them into line with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation standards, to be able to defend themselves and others.

Western diplomats said the Baltic nations were unlikely to get into NATO as Russia's objections were too strong and the three countries only have small, poorly equipped armies.

Moscow opposes NATO enlargement, particularly in the case of the Baltic states, which for 50 years were a key part of its Western defences and still have large Russian minorities.

The three presidents said their wish to be in NATO was not motivated by "aggressive designs" but to guarantee their security by their own efforts and to join with others in Europe committed to peaceful development.

The Baltic states have been constantly invaded and occupied.

For most of the last two centuries they were ruled by Russia, apart from a brief period of independence earlier this century.

They believe NATO is the only way to make sure they never again fall prey to their more powerful neighbour.

Perry: Spy case will not damage ties with Seoul

WASHINGTON (R) — The arrest of a U.S. Navy intelligence employee on charges of spying for South Korea will not damage close military ties between the two countries, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday.

"We have a compelling reason for maintaining a strong military alliance with South Korea. We are both profoundly affected by the threat from North Korea. That threat is still very much on our minds," he told reporters flying home with him from a visit to Nordic countries.

Mr. Perry refused for legal reasons to comment directly on the arrest in Washington Tuesday of Robert Kim, 56, an 18-year government employee who worked at a U.S. Navy Intelligence Office in Suitland, Maryland. But asked if the incident would hurt Washington and Seoul's four-decade-old ties, he said without hesitation:

"To directly answer your question, both the Republic of South Korea and the United States believe that the military alliance between our two countries is of vital importance to our countries, and we will maintain and, if anything, strengthen that military alliance."

Mr. Kim, arrested at a diplomatic reception at Fort Myer, Virginia, was charged with passing classified information to a South Korean agent, a naval attaché at the embassy in Washington identified as Capt. Dong-Il Baek.

"I'll just say I'm not easily surprised," Mr. Perry said when asked if the incident surprised him. "I've been around too long to be surprised by almost anything anymore."

Mr. Perry suggested that the Kim incident was far outweighed by mutual worries about North Korea. He mentioned the recent grounding of a North Korean submarine off South Korea and the subsequent killing of a number of men from that submarine by the South Korean military.

Perry: U.S. military officer will head NATO in Naples

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will not bow to a French demand to replace the traditional U.S. military chief of NATO forces in southern Europe with a European officer, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday.

"Is there room for compromise? Not on that basic principle," Mr. Perry told reporters aboard his aircraft en route to Washington from Norway, where he held talks with alliance defence ministers on Bosnia and the realignment of NATO's military structure after the cold war.

As part of that restructuring, France has demanded that the commander of Allied Forces South (AFSOUTH) based in Naples, Italy, be a European officer in the future to give a higher profile to European participation in the Western alliance.

"I told my French colleague (French Defence Minister Charles Millon)

that we were inflexible on that point," said Mr. Perry, insisting again as he did at the talks in Bergen, Norway, that the job remain in U.S. hands.

He said that the United States had compromised in military restructuring in other NATO areas but that the most powerful allied forces in southern Europe, including the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, were American.

Mr. Perry said Washington was willing to talk and to compromise on the matter of putting more European officers in senior jobs under the U.S. commander of AFSOUTH.

"We will work very hard on that. I think that's going to be the nature of the discussions in the weeks ahead," he told reporters.

But Mr. Perry stressed that the rest of the military restructuring could not go ahead separately, saying that the Naples command must be part of an overall package.

"If we get all of these other compromises worked out, the whole package will then go into effect," he said.

The supreme allied commander of all NATO forces in Europe (SACEUR) is an American officer, currently U.S. Army Gen. George Joulwan. That is not being challenged, but the United States has agreed to expand the duties of SACEUR's deputy, a European officer, to give him planning control of future military operations by the Western European Union (WEU).

But Mr. Perry stressed earlier in Bergen that AFSOUTH would not be bargained away from U.S. control.

"It makes supreme military sense to put an American commander in charge," he told a press conference Thursday.

"We must protect what works and change what doesn't work — not the other way around."

Disney's World to celebrate 25 years

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — Walt Disney World in Florida was preparing for its 25th anniversary Tuesday, having drawn more than 500 million visitors but failing to become the "world city" envisioned more than three decades ago. Though Tuesday marks the official anniversary, festivities were to begin late Monday for the multi-million-dollar production. "The kickoff event and the whole 15-month celebration are both, by far, the biggest celebrations we've ever created," said Linda Warren, senior vice-president of marketing, Disney Chairman Michael Eisner and Roy Disney, Walt Disney's nephew and the company's vice chairman, were scheduled to conduct the rededication of the magic kingdom Tuesday. There will be fireworks, a 1,076-piece marching band and numerous celebrities. Disney even converted the 55-metre tall Cinderella's castle into a huge birthday cake, with 25 candles, plus one to grow on. The arrival of Disney World in this southern state three decades ago had a profound effect on the hucolic centre of Florida, changing it from a group of towns and orange groves into a magnet for tourists around the world. Kissimmee, the urban area around the complex, was a town of 6,000 in 1960. Its population now has jumped to 30,000. The population of Osceola County increased more than six times from 18,000 to 108,000.

Lennon's son is 'mystery buyer' of Hey Jude notes

LONDON (R) — John Lennon's son Julian has been revealed as the mystery buyer of Paul McCartney's recording notes for the Beatles classic Hey Jude. Lennon, whose father split up with his mother, Cynthia when he was five years old, paid £25,000 (\$39,030) at a London auction earlier this month for a part of his family heritage that became world famous. McCartney wrote the song for Julian, originally calling it Hey Jules with the poignant lyric "take a sad song and make it better." "He has a few photographs of his father but not very much else," Julian Lennon's manager, John Cousins, told the Sunday Times when revealing the mystery buyer at a Beatles memorabilia auction. "He is collecting for personal reasons. These are family heirlooms if you like." Cousins told the paper, John Lennon left Cynthia for the Japanese artist Yoko Ono. He was murdered by a crazed gunman outside their New York apartment building in 1980.

Asians win top marks in French singing contest

TOULOUSE, France (AFP) — Chinese baritone Chang Yong Liao, 28, has won top prize in the male voice section at the 41st international singing contest in the southern French city of Toulouse. The runner-up was Yi Kun Chung, a tenor from South Korea. Felipe Jimenez Bou, of Spain was third. The female first prize went to the Ukrainian soprano Tatiana Melnichenko with Margherita Tomasi Soprano (Italy) taking the second prize. Exceptionally, Chang took part in the two semifinals. He suffered an attack of hypoglycemia in the first semifinal and was allowed to make another bid in the evening.

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party shifts to the right before elections

TOKYO (R) — Japan's largest political party tilted rightward Monday, moving to adopt in its general election platform a controversial call for official cabinet minister visits to a controversial Tokyo war shrine.

A Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decision to endorse official visits to Yasukuni Shrine — which enshrines war dead, including war criminals executed after World War II — would be likely to anger Chinese nationalists already boiling with resentment over a territorial dispute with Japan.

The LDP play to nationalist sentiment in an election with few clear battle lines among parties came less than a week after a Hong Kong activist drowned after jumping off a protest ship near tiny islands claimed by China, Taiwan and Japan.

Campaigning begins on Oct. 8 for elections on Oct. 20 for the 500-seat lower house of parliament.

Media reports quoted authoritative LDP sources as saying the party had decided to include the controversial call for official shrine visits in its election platform. Party spokesmen declined to reveal details before the platform is made public on Oct. 8.

The LDP's stance, which reflects the long-held position of the party's right wing, could complicate efforts by the government of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to quell the dispute over the East China Sea islands, analysts said.

Tokyo has claimed sovereign rights to the islands, known by Japan as the Senkakus and by China as the Diaoyus, since 1895.

China has claimed sovereignty over the islands for centuries.

Japan, disconcerted by an upsurge in Chinese nationalism triggered by the building by a Japanese right-wing group of a light-house on the barren islands, has called for calm but said that as far as Tokyo is concerned there can be no dispute.

Mr. Hashimoto, who is LDP president, visited the Yasukuni Shrine on his birthday in July, drawing criticism from China and other countries which have suffered at the hands of the Japanese military. Some 2.6 million Japanese who have died in wars since the 19th century are honoured in the Shinto shrine.

In talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda last week in New York, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen expressed Beijing's dismay over the prime minister's visit, leading Mr. Hashimoto to cancel another planned visit in October to mark a relative's death.

Nationalists in the conservative LDP, the dominant force in a three-party coalition which has ruled since June 1994, reared their heads last week when they dashed party educational reforms' plans to include in the election platform the abolition of government screening of school history textbooks.

The right wing of the LDP — a bloc which includes elderly ex-soldiers, among them the son of a 1930s war minister executed as a war criminal for his role in plotting Japan's invasion of China — resent textbook accounts of Japan's wartime actions which portray Japan as the aggressor.

Comments by LDP hardliners in recent years which denied or played down Japan's atrocities in the war have triggered popular protests and official condemnations in South and North Korea as well as China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The controversial remarks also have strained the LDP's relations with its coalition partners the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake, both of which have called on Japan to atone for its actions in the war.

The Democratic Party, a new grouping launched at the weekend with about 40 defectors from the Social Democrats and Sakigake, has also said Tokyo should do more to make amends for wartime atrocities.

The LDP's nationalist stance could be a burden for it in working with the Democratic Party, which many pundits say will be a pivotal centrist and reformist force and possible kingmaker in a post-election coalition government.



Sri Lankan troops enter the Tamil separatist stronghold of Kilinochchi Sunday. The military took Kilinochchi, the last major town under rebel control, after a week of fierce fighting. Nearly 700 rebels were killed and over 650 wounded, to the army's 229 killed and 300 wounded, according to official figures (Reuters photo)

Sri Lankan army mops up Tamil rebel resistance

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops were mopping up resistance Monday as they consolidated their positions in the key northern town of Kilinochchi that they captured from Tamil Tigers at the weekend, military officials said.

"Troops are clearing the town of mines and booby-traps and mopping up remaining enemy resistance in the area with the help of the air force," a military spokesman said.

Government troops backed by tanks, artillery and air support seized Kilinochchi, the last major town under rebel control, Sunday after a week of fierce fighting.

"There are no civilians in the town and the only living creature was a stray dog," the spokesman said, adding that he believed civilians fled Kilinochchi in July when the army first moved on the town. Forty rebels were killed in

Sunday's fighting. Fourteen soldiers also died and 34 were wounded, the spokesman said.

The army had lost 269 soldiers, including seven officers, in the offensive while more than 700 rebels were killed and over 800 wounded, he said. About 300 soldiers were wounded.

A clandestine radio station run by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), monitored by Reuters, said the guerrillas were still fighting the army near Kilinochchi, 285 kilometres north of Colombo.

"The LTTE is engaged in a severe attack on the security forces who say they have captured Kilinochchi town," it said.

Western diplomats said the LTTE was now likely to revert to more traditional guerrilla warfare instead of taking on the army in set-piece battles in which casualties on both sides have been in triple digits.

"The LTTE has effectively lost control of major population centres of the north," said a diplomat who declined to be identified.

"They will be forced on to the defensive in the jungles, where they'll find life without the financial and general support from the people much more difficult," he said.

It was the first major victory for the military since the LTTE overran their Northeastern Mullaitivu Camp in July, killing or capturing almost its entire garrison of well over 1,000 men.

The military spokesman said the LTTE had put up fierce resistance to the attacking force because of the importance of Kilinochchi for the rebels.

Some defence analysts said the army could push further south of Kilinochchi to secure a land route to Colombo. Army bases in the northern Jaffna peninsula are now supplied by air and

sea. The army has said it wants to reopen the highway connecting Jaffna and Colombo, which passes through 70 kilometres of rebel-held territory between Vavuniya and Kilinochchi.

The LTTE set up its base in Kilinochchi in April after the army captured Jaffna.

The Tigers, fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of the predominantly Sinhalese island, had ruled Jaffna as a mini-state for almost a decade with their own administration, courts and police.

Western aid workers said the army had declared a curfew in the area north of Vavuniya, possibly indicating that it might launch another offensive.

The government has said more than 50,000 people have died in the civil war, now in its 14th year.

Palme's alleged assassin denies part

HARARE (AFP) — Anthony White, the man accused of killing Swedish Premier Olof Palme, a leading opponent of apartheid in South Africa, Monday denied any involvement in the assassination in 1986.

Mr. White told AFP in a telephone interview from the sawmill he runs in the Mozambican port of Beira that he was "absolutely shocked" by the allegation, made by a South African former death squad leader.

He said he would be available for any investigation into the killing by the Swedish or South African governments.

"The allegations are without foundation. There would have been less reaction if you had thrown me in a bath of freezing water," said Mr. White.

Asked why he thought his name had cropped up in the allegation by former South African agent Dirk Coetzee, he said: "I wouldn't even like to speculate. I've got absolutely no idea."

He denied any involvement in any South African secret services.

"I'm a civilian," said the former soldier in the white army of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. "I've been a civilian for many many years. I can prove that I've had absolutely no 'spook' connections."

Mr. White said he had been in contact with the Swedish ambassador to Mozambique and had assured him of his willingness to cooperate in any investigation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Coetzee said Monday

South African secret police were behind the March 1988 murder in Paris of ANC representative Dulcie September.

"I know the section of the South African services was implicated, but I have no detail on that specific operation," Mr. Coetzee told AFP by telephone.

He said the assassination of the representative of the African National Congress (ANC) on March 29, 1988, was planned by "Section A", which was led by "superspy" Craig Williamson, who had admitted to several killings under the apartheid regime before Nelson Mandela's ANC swept to power in historic all-race elections in April 1994.

Mr. Coetzee has been suspended from his position as a senior intelligence officer and is on bail pending a charge of murdering ANC activist Griffiths Mxenge in the 1980s.

Mr. Coetzee has also echoed testimony by his successor, Eugene De Kock, that Mr. Williamson was also involved in the 1986 murder of Mr. Palme, whom he described as "a thorn in the flesh" of the white minority regime because of his opposition to apartheid and support for the ANC.

Mr. Williamson has denied involvement in Mr. Palme's death.

Mr. De Kock, a convicted killer who said he learned of South Africa's link to the Palme murder "in 1992 or 1993," went public with the Palme revelations while testifying last Thursday at the Supreme Court in Pretoria in mitigation of sentence.

Misuari takes oath as governor of Philippine Autonomous area

COTABATO, Philippines (AFP) — Former Muslim rebel Chief Nur Misuari Monday took the oath as governor of a four-province Muslim autonomous area and was called "a friend and brother" by President Fidel Ramos, who had once fought against him.

Mr. Ramos administered the oath to Mr. Misuari, chairman of the former Muslim insurgent Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in this southern city in festive but well-secured ceremonies.

In his speech, Mr. Misuari appealed to Muslims, Christians and tribal groups to work together to help the underdeveloped Muslim autonomous region catch up with the rest of the mostly Roman Catholic country.

"We are waging a new kind of war, a war in which everyone would become victorious. All our people in this region ... shall become participants ... for this shall be war against backwardness, poverty, lawlessness and unresponsive government," he said.

Hundreds of MNLF fighters, still dressed in fatigues but not carrying their weapons, attended the ceremonies.

Mr. Ramos, who as a military leader himself fought against Misuari-led forces, said "Governor Misuari shall have me as a friend and brother."

Mr. Misuari's MNLF launched a bloody campaign for a separate Muslim state in the southern Philippines in 1972 but it lost momentum later in that decade.

The MNLF signed a peace agreement with the government on Sept. 2 and, as part of the accord, Mr. Misuari ran unopposed as governor of the four-province autonomous region for Muslim Mindanao.

The peace agreement also provides for the creation of an MNLF-led Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) that will oversee development projects in 14 provinces in the southern Philippines in preparation for the creation of a wider autonomous area.

"The president has already decided to allow Mr. Misuari to chair the SPCPD," said Hector Villanueva, presidential press secretary, over Catholic Church-run radio station DXMS.

Mr. Misuari was widely expected to be appointed to head the SPCPD but some congressmen have objected, saying it would violate rules barring public officials from holding two positions.

The peace plan faces opposition from Christians who make up the majority in the southern Philippines.

India's Rao, under threat, spared court hearing

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Supreme Court ruled that former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao did not have to appear at a criminal court hearing Monday after police warned that militants had threatened the political leader.

A two-judge panel said Mr. Rao was exempted from having to appear personally in the \$100,000 conspiracy case until it meets Oct. 7 to decide on a government demand that the venue of the lower court hearing be shifted to a more secure location.

A lower court judge had ordered Mr. Rao to appear Monday to face charges and possible arrest in the 13-year-old case of criminal conspiracy to cheat. Mr. Rao says he is innocent.

Late last week New Delhi police, fearing a security

lapse, asked the Supreme Court to move the scheduled hearing from a local court complex to a nearby sports stadium, a cavernous exhibition hall or a modern convention centre.

New Delhi Police Chief Nikil Kumar told the court that intelligence reports indicated "serious threats to the security of Mr. Rao exist," the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said authorities were concerned over the presence of Sikh and Kashmiri militants in the capital waiting for a chance to mount a "sensational attack."

PTI quoted a police report as saying Tamil, rebel and Islamic fundamentalists had in the past planned to target Mr. Rao, and that they could try to enter the court as journalists, lawyers or Rao supporters.

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was shot dead by Sikh bodyguards in 1984. Her son, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was blown up by a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber in 1991.

Supreme Court Justices M. M. Pundshi and K.T. Thomas said that "Narasimha Rao, who stands summoned as an accused in the court of Ajit Bharihoke for today, stands exempted from personal appearance and he is permitted to appear through counsel."

Judge Bharihoke set Monday's hearing for 2 p.m. (0830 GMT) in the Tis Hazari Court Complex, which was surrounded by hundreds of police and journalists.

Court sources said Judge Bharihoke was expected to

adjourn the session until after the Supreme Court rules on the request for a change in venue. That would give Mr. Rao at least a week's reprieve before facing charges and possible arrest.

Mr. Rao, who quit in disgrace as Congress Party leader on Sept. 21 after a court upheld a summons in the case, would be the first former prime minister to appear in court in a criminal case.

A court sentenced Indira Gandhi for contempt of parliament in 1978, but the charges were not criminal in nature.

If arrested and denied bail, Mr. Rao would be put in either judicial or police custody pending completion of the trial, court officials said.

U.K.'s Labour Party opens last conference before election

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Tony Blair's Labour Party Monday opened its last annual conference before an election, hoping for a trouble-free week to cement its huge poll lead and catapult it back to power after 17 years in opposition.

After defusing a row over pensions policy that threatened a showdown with left-wing traditionalists, the Labour leadership immediately set about wooing floating voters with an eye-catching pledge to end waiting lists for cancer surgery.

Health spokesman Chris Smith said the promise, to be paid for by slashing red tape in the health service, was a concrete example of how Labour would make a difference if it defeated the Conservatives at the next general election, which must be held no later than May.

Pledging to halt the encroaching privatization of Britain's state-run health care system, Mr. Smith said: "Ask me why you should vote Labour. That reason will do alone. You will have a National Health Service again."

The pledge to redirect £100 million (\$156 million) a year from Health Service running costs to patient care is one of only a handful of specific, costed policies that Mr. Blair and his finance supremo, Gordon Brown, have been willing to make.

Labour is haunted by its candour at the last general election in 1992 when the Conservatives seized on its spending pledges to portray it as a party of crazed

tax-raisers. Voters decided to play safe and re-elected Prime Minister John Major.

Determined not to offer similar openings at the next election, the Labour leadership Sunday headed off a call for a £3 billion increase in basic pensions by referring the issue to a policy commission.

A former Labour cabinet minister, Baroness Barbara Castle, expressed dismay at the fudge. But Labour leaders, with a steely eye on the main prize of power, were unrepentant.

In his keynote speech to the conference later Monday, Mr. Brown was expected to warn delegates of the need for "iron discipline" when choosing among public spending priorities.

Labour left-wingers, frustrated by nearly two decades in the political wilderness, have a long spending wish list and still openly chafe at what they see as the excessive caution of their new, moderate leaders.

"Because there's so much riding on winning the election, a lot of people are just grinning and bearing this and saying 'we've got to get in (to power), we won't make great rows at this conference,'" Ken Livingstone, a leading left-winger, told BBC Television.

But Mr. Brown is expected to give ground to his critics, arguing that only by abandoning its old tax-and-spend policies can Labour fulfil its political goal of greater social justice.

China's Li: Japan militarists hurt ties

Beijing (Agencies) — Chinese premier Li Peng said Monday that Japanese rightists had undermined Sino-Japanese relations and said Beijing would not submit to actions that damaged Chinese interests.

"Recently a tiny handful of rightwingers and militarists in Japan have created a series of incidents which have interfered with and undermined Sino-Japanese relations," Mr. Li said in a speech on the eve of national day.

"No action that hurts the feeling of the Chinese people will get anywhere," he said in remarks that drew widespread applause from an audience of top officials gathered in the great hall of the people.

China had achieved signifi-

cant results by upholding its principles, withstanding pressure and "waging justifiable and restrained struggle" when the time was right, Mr. Li said.

China and Japan have been embroiled in a row over uninhabited islands, known as the Diaoyu in Chinese and as the Senkaku in Japanese, since September when Japanese rightists moved to buttress Tokyo's claim over them by sailing there and repairing a makeshift aluminium lighthouse.

Japan has claimed sovereign rights to the islands and refused to acknowledge that the dispute is still open for discussion with China.

Meanwhile a group of Taiwanese activists asserting that a group of disputed is-

lands were Chinese, burned a Japanese flag Monday and set up a makeshift shrine to mourn Hong Kong protester David Chan who drowned near the island group last week.

"David Chan sacrificed his life... we cannot let him die in vain," shouted Wang Chin-ping from the Labour Party outside Japan's quasi-embassy here, the Interchange Association. Japan does not have formal ties with Taiwan, which Beijing claims is a province of China.

A portrait of Chan was mounted on the outside wall of the building, and fruits and flowers were placed there to mourn the Hong Kong activist who died Thursday to press China's claim over the islands, known as Diaoyu.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

All win if summit works

HIGH HOPES are being pinned on the Washington summit that brings together the American, Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli leaders. Yet people should be prepared to accept a modest or no outcome from the meeting. For starters, this is an election year in the U.S., and it is doubtful that President Clinton can afford to put much pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu beyond applying some friendly persuasion tactics. Secondly, Netanyahu seems to have gone on the defensive already and has begun to display signs of a new-old siege mentality. He told CNN yesterday that he was detecting a fresh campaign of calumny and slander against Israel, something which he described as a constant prelude to any attack against the Jews, historically speaking. Where was such slander when Israel was truly working for peace with the Arabs, we do not know. But with this being the background to the summit, there is not much that can be expected of it. If anything, it is the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who might be subjected to most pressure by the Americans. No wonder Arafat has insisted on Arab presence at any encounter with Netanyahu, no matter where the venue.

If this indeed happens, and Netanyahu and Arafat return home carrying nothing to show to their respective peoples about the resumption of the peace process, then despair, violence and counterviolence can be expected to increase rather than decrease.

This is why perhaps Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has demanded assurances that the agenda of the five parties to the summit include a solemn commitment by Israel to implement what it had agreed to with the Palestinians since the Oslo accords were signed.

But the whole situation surrounding the summit can be different if President Clinton, President Mubarak and King Hussein join hands to impress upon Netanyahu the need to be not only flexible but also to show true wisdom and spirit of reconciliation at this very critical juncture in the peace process. When he visited Amman in August, the Israeli prime minister made it a point to say that he would always value the counsel of the King, and when in Cairo he stressed that he would respect his country's commitments to advance the cause of peace.

True that Netanyahu's leadership has not been easy sail so far. The prime minister, it seems, still has problems with his key coalition partners, both the extremists and the moderates. His policies have even triggered calls for a new broader-based national unity government comprising the Labour Party.

But the Israeli leader can win the day, and not just amongst Israelis, if he gears his policies towards achieving the higher ideal of peace for all nations and peoples in this part of the world.

He and his country could not possibly lose if the Washington summit succeeded in fulfilling its declared mission.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai Monday said that Jordanians are deeply pained by the bloody events and the fall of Arab victims to Israel's aggression in the occupied Palestinian lands, stressing that the pain and the suffering contributed to further cementing the unity and the eternal bond between the people on both banks of the River Jordan. Mahmoud Rimawi said the Israeli practices have aroused the Jordanians' anger, and Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu's measures against the holy Aqsa Mosque provoked angry feelings of Arabs and Muslims in Jordan and elsewhere. Jordan, which has a special relationship with Palestine and its people, is affected negatively or positively by whatever development that occurs in the Palestinian lands; and it is natural for Jordan's leadership, government and people to make speedy moves in connecting with the latest developments in order to help restore security and defend the Arab and Islamic nation's rights and interests, added the writer. The events prove once again that Jordanian remains a central force, at the heart of the Arab World, interacting with the events around it and always ready to come to the help of Arab brethren facing danger.

A WRITER for Al Dustour Monday praised a government decision to close 15 new trades before foreign workers, saying that the move would open the door for local workers to earn a decent living and reduce the unemployment rate. Mohammad Daoud said that it is now up to the Jordanians to seize this opportunity to find jobs and it is a chance for the employers to offer a service to their nation by employing local people and job seekers who can contribute to the country's development. Having realised that the government can by no means absorb job seekers in its offices, Jordanians can find in the present situation a fresh opportunity for work. The writer said that university graduates in advanced nations are often employed in jobs like plumbing, carpentry and auto-mechanics, and it is not a shame for graduates of community colleges and universities in Jordan to follow their example and earn a decent living.

The View from Fourth Circle

Time to hear from the Jewish people

By Rami G. Khouri

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The television images of Israeli and Palestinian security forces battling each other with machine guns last week have been startling to watch from my vantage point in Washington, D.C., where 1) the American political establishment has been shocked and angered by the Jerusalem tunnel opening and other provocative actions of the Netanyahu government that led to the eruption of violence and 2) the U.S. government and the Jewish establishment are not quite sure what to do in response, other than push the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to moving quickly on resuming full peace talks.

The most important immediate aspect of last week's violence in Palestine was the intensity with which both sides waged the battle. The television pictures of the Palestinian policemen firing their machine guns and automatic rifles at Israeli troops were reminiscent of the ferocity of the militia wars in Lebanon in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The corresponding intensity on the Israeli side was evident in the armoured personnel carriers and jeeps in Nablus, and the helicopters overhead, all of which opened fire with their machine guns in scenes reminiscent of the wars in Vietnam and Somalia. This was not a mere flare-up; it was a very brief but very real existential war, contained in time and place, but not in its underlying fury.

The battles last week left 54 Palestinians and 14 Israelis dead. This passion for battle has been striking for the drama it reveals, but not necessarily shocking for the political antagonisms it reflects. The Palestinian-Israeli peace process that was launched with the Oslo accord has been staggered by the consequences of four forces: the fundamental flaws of the Oslo process itself, the relative indifference of the Arab World and the rest of the world to the stressed and vulnerable condition of Palestinian society, the widespread sense of mediocrity and corruption engendered by the Palestine National Authority's self-rule system and, finally, the extremist policies of the Netanyahu government.

The fate of the Oslo process does not really hang in the balance, as many commentators here have speculated. That process is relatively secure, given the support it has received from Israelis and Palestinians, and from the rest of the world. The meaning of the upcoming Netanyahu-Arafat-Clinton meeting in Washington is that the Oslo process will continue, with the guarantee of the United States. What really hangs in the balance, I would suggest, is the political fate of the Netanyahu government. The question we must answer is not whether the Oslo process will continue and succeed. The question, rather, is whether

the majority of Israelis supports the Netanyahu policies that have sparked this peculiar little war in Palestine; or, asked in another manner: What did Netanyahu's election really signify?

This is, really, a moment of historical reckoning for Israel, the Jewish people and Zionism, a moment when all three are forced to answer the question that they have never fully confronted: What do they want in Palestine, and how are they prepared to live alongside the majority, indigenous Arab-Muslim population of the Levant? It is historically neat and politically appropriate that such a question should confront the Jewish people in 1996, exactly one-hundred years after modern political Zionism was born with the 1896 publication of Theodor Herzl's book "The Jewish State".

I believe that the policies pursued by the Netanyahu government since June are not supported by a majority of Israelis. While he did win the election with a very small majority, his victory was based primarily on his ability to tap the fears of the Israeli people in the wake of the Palestinian bus and other terror attacks against Israeli civilians in early 1996. His ideology of permanent control of the land of greater Israel is not shared by a majority of Israelis, as numerous opinion polls have shown repeatedly for many years. A majority of Israelis is willing to freeze settlements, evacuate some, and probably return all of the Golan Heights to Syria in return for full and permanent peace with the Arabs.

Having won the election, Netanyahu has now proven that he was a better candidate than he is a statesman. He has squandered his slim electoral advantage by indulging in extremist policies towards the Palestinians, leading only to rising tension and widespread violence. Having won the election, he will probably now have to subject himself to an unofficial referendum of the Israeli/Jewish people's views on his policies. That referendum will be conducted in the court of public opinion, in the press, through polls, and in other ways that allow us to measure the sentiments of Israelis and Jews. I think he will lose that referendum.

My assessment is that a majority of Israelis will make it clear that they elected him to protect them against random terror in their own neighbourhoods, but they did not elect him to implement a predatory, expansionist and colonial programme based on right-wing ideologies rooted in the outmoded excesses of late 19th century imperial delusions. Netanyahu waged a successful campaign based on the promise of both peace and security; this week, his policies have been shown to lead to war and death.

I think that we have to await the answers to two key questions in order to see where the whole peace process heads from here: What are the views of the Israeli public, and how will Netanyahu react to those views? If the public expresses the position I have outlined above (a tough war against terror, but continued implementation of the Oslo accord's explicit separation of Israelis and Palestinians, and implicit midwifing of a Palestinian state), how will Netanyahu react?

He has two basic options: To be a visionary, realistic, courageous and pragmatic national leader, or to be a narrow, scornful and rigid ideologue. The former option would see him acknowledge the Jewish people's desire to negotiate full peace with the Palestinians, trim or abandon his extremist positions on settlements, Jerusalem and other basic issues, and implement the Oslo accords in full. The latter would see him reject any expressions of shock by the Israeli public at his policy's consequences, and pursue the Sharon-Eitan line that believes in dealing with the Palestinians only with force and domination.

The real immediate challenge is not to Netanyahu only; it is to the Israeli and Jewish people as a whole, for now they must pronounce whether the Netanyahu policies accurately reflect their sentiments and aspirations. The political impact of the terror against Israelis has been neutralised or offset by the impact of the events of last week. The historical/emotional slate has been wiped clean.

So, we and the world ask today what we could not ask with such clarity in 1896: What do the Jewish people want in Palestine? If Netanyahu does not reflect the will of the Jewish people vis-à-vis coexistence with the Palestinians, this is the moment for the Jewish people to say so, and to stop the moral, political and military barbarism being practised in their name. But, if the Netanyahu policies do truly reflect the desires of the Jewish people, then last week's events will be seen in retrospect merely as a minor prelude to the wide-scale communal warfare and mutual death that will plague Israelis and Arabs alike for years to come. This is not only Netanyahu's personal problem; it is the dilemma of the Jewish people that they have avoided facing and answering for a full century. We must hear from the Jewish people in the coming weeks and months, or else all we will hear for a long time to come is the loading and reloading of machine guns, and the sound of death inflicted by the existential furies of young men and other gladiators fighting for their lives.

Jerusalem's sovereignty should be solved once and for all

By Waleed M. Sadi

THE WASHINGTON summit, at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton, to defuse the situation in the Middle East and save the peace process from complete derailment offers a rare occasion to begin airing His Majesty King Hussein's ideas on how to extend international protection to historic sights in East Jerusalem and establish a new regime to govern the holy shrines of all three monotheistic religions. The King has proposed establishing an international order to regulate and supervise all actions, including excavations, in the old city. What prompted the Monarch to submit his thoughts on the subject was the recent Israeli opening of a controversial tunnel, under the cover of darkness, linking Via Dolorosa with the wall adjacent to the Islamic and Jewish sites.

In point of fact, the King had more than the tunnel in mind when he proposed calling on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to control all archaeological

diggings in the old city of Jerusalem. For King Hussein and Jordan the holy places themselves take center stage. How to protect them and how to keep them away from conflicts and disputes is clearly foremost on the mind of the King. The King was also thinking of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty which gave Jordan "a role" in administration and control of the Islamic holy places. In this context, the King made a bid to disallow sovereignty by any state over the holy places and to vest "sovereignty" in God alone.

In this vein, one may wish to make a distinction between East Jerusalem and the old city of Jerusalem, on one hand, and between the holy places and the old city, on the other. In this case one could be talking about all together different issues.

Even though the old city is the natural setting of the Islamic, Christian and Jewish holy shrines situated there, and which constitute a natural extension thereof, they are by no means one and of the same. If UNESCO, as suggested, or any other international agency is to become

responsible for the situation within the old city of Jerusalem, we must define the extent and depth of any such involvement. If the intention here is to bestow some international jurisdiction over the old city, then this needs to be clearly determined. If UNESCO, or similar international institution, is to enjoy only an advisory status, then, I am afraid, not much will have been done to effectively control excavations in the old city. This is not to mention the amount of disputes that can be anticipated provided that any group of experts from the international agency would naturally be broad and faithful to the geographic distribution criteria.

Besides, most probably, Israel would not accept to transfer any control to an international group unless it is certain that its composition is favourable to its interests and positions.

The main issue, therefore, is that of sovereignty. If we maintain that there is a gap, or vacuum, in sovereignty over the holy sites, we would immediately come up against Israel's claim that it has united all Jerusalem under its domain

and that the whole city is now its capital. In other words, from Israel's point of view, there is no gap or vacuum. Has the dispute been confined to whether the Palestinian National Authority or Jordan enjoy "sovereignty" over the Islamic holy places, the issue could have been regarded as manageable and solvable in due course. As I see the issue, the problem centres more on Israel's claim to sovereignty over the entire Jerusalem rather than on any inter-Arab or Islamic disagreement, especially that the Jewish state appears to wish to control the old city.

If we wish to pursue the proposition that sovereignty over the holy shrines should rest with God Almighty, as a way to suggest that no single country should be recognised as having sovereignty over them, then we need to articulate such "spiritual" ideas in terms that are compatible with the international law. It is never enough to maintain that sovereignty over the Islamic and Christian holy shrines should rest with God because from a religious point of view everything on planet Earth and beyond it belongs to God anyway.

If the intention here is to internationalise the body governing the holy places, then we need to say so in black and white terms. It is doubtful that we in Jordan would want to see Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock come under international supervision and the Islamic World would only be a part thereof. We obviously seek something else. Perhaps what we have in mind is a strictly Islamic control over the shrines, in the full sense of the word, with Jordan playing the representative role. If that is the case, then it must be said so in clearer terms.

The point that I wish to make here is that we need to articulate, on East Jerusalem and the holy places therein, operational

ideas that the international law would recognise and the international community would better comprehend and deal with. This is a time, therefore, to elaborate such ideas that are based on recognised international law and established precedents.

Perhaps the Washington summit may not be the appropriate forum to examine in full these and other related issues in due time. But a beginning must be made and the summit provides a unique opportunity for such a start. A special conference on the subject, to be convened at a later stage, could be a follow up occasion for a thorough study of the subject of Jerusalem in all its dimensions.

Having rejected the U.N. call for internationalising the entire city of Jerusalem, we should at least aim to internationalise the old city and place the holy shrines under the respective control of the ruling bodies of the three monotheistic faiths. This would be a sensible thing to aim for in a bid to solve all related issues on the most significant and contentious part of Jerusalem.

Different eras, same humanity

By William Ptaff

PARIS — Three years ago I published a book on nationalism, in which I made the remark that while science progresses, and society has steadily become more complex, the moral nature of man has not changed. It seemed to me "a preposterous and impertinent notion" that I should today somehow be a moral superior to the men and women who made the great cave paintings of prehistory, or the dramatists and poets of classical Greece.

A critic, Liah Greenfield of Boston University, demanded that I clarify what I meant. My reply turned into an article last winter in the New York quarterly World Policy Journal. It was reprinted by a French quarterly, Commentaire, entitled "Progress: Reflections on a Dead Idea."

That title was certain to attract attention in France, and in August the Paris newspaper Le Monde cited my article in launching a debate on whether progress is indeed a dead idea.

There eventually were more than 20 published contributions to this discussion.

A clear division was apparent between those writers who do and those who do not believe that man has made moral progress over the centuries and can continue to do so in the future. I was offered the last word in the debate, and said the following:

Those who do not acknowledge a distinction between man's material progress and his moral improvement include both Marxists and thinkers in the liberal tradition. They believe that despite the political calamities of the 20th century, and the ambiguities of scientific progress, our world is still (as one contributor wrote) "in its planetary iron age, and in the prehistory of the human spirit." They believe that humanity still can have a radiant future before it.

My own belief is not that the future will be worse. We simply do not know what the future will be.

Western history has been a chain of responses to what one writer in the Le Monde debate called "the Promethean challenge," understood in classical Greece as a demand that man accomplish things which could compare with the permanence and nobility of nature. Success would give a form of immortality in the memories of other men and women.

Jews, and then Christians, were enjoined by Scripture to search for their immortality in obedience to God. They were to cultivate virtue and justice, but their aim was to achieve salvation in the next world — outside history, outside time.

Since the Enlightenment, Westerners have redefined the aim of their lives and actions as lying within time. They mean to achieve something inside history. The liberal tradition is

committed to the belief that man and society can be perfected inside historical

tarian version, or perversion, of this idea of progress was Nazism. Its

"I do not believe that history is going to be 'solved' inside historical time. I believe that we are morally obliged to work to perfect the society in which we live, but that we must understand that while some of our efforts will succeed, there will be no final success."

time, through reasonable and enlightened human action, building a better society and a more reasonable man.

Marxists said a science of history existed, and by working with it a "new socialist man" could be created. The alternative totali-

terrible conclusion was that "decadent races" should be murdered, and "supermeo" bred.

All these modern views of the role of man in history put the goal inside historical time. That has been the great and fateful error. If human fulfillment lies

inside historical time, why not — as in Russia, Germany, China, Cambodia — use "extreme measures" to speed up its arrival?

History is a tragedy, and is ennobled by that fact. I do not believe that history is going to be "solved" inside historical time. I believe that we are morally obliged to work to perfect the society in which we live, but that we must understand that while some of our efforts will succeed, there will be no final success.

There is progress in civilisation, but this is not the moral progress of man himself. Our struggle to progress against the limits imposed by the divided moral inheritance of man ("implicated," as John Henry Newman wrote in the 19th century, "in some terrible aboriginal calamity") is both the duty and the justification of our existence.

International Herald Tribune

Translation — contribution to the global cultural movement

By Abdullah Shunnaq

THIS PAPER is an attempt to focus on the translation situation in Jordan and the role of the Jordanian Translators Association (JTA) in promoting the importance and activating the practice of translation from Arabic into various languages and vice versa so as to contribute to the development of the cultural movement nationally and internationally.

A brief survey of the situation of translation since the 1920s shows that there has been no comprehensive study done about the movement of translation in Jordan; lack of communication between the organisations involved in translation made information even more difficult to come by.

The JTA is a non-profit body which attempts to elevate translation in Jordan by standardising quality and developing translators' proficiency and by establishing links between the JTA and other Arab and international counterparts.

From the beginning of the 19th century up to the mid-20th century, the translation movement in the Arab World was represented by efforts exerted by individuals

and private publishing houses and distributors. In the 1950s, official organisations were established by some Arab countries to sponsor translations. Ministries of culture, information, education, higher education, universities and academies of Arabic language, among others, also started shouldering the responsibilities of translating, publishing and distributing for most of the last five decades.

Translation is an effective means of positive communication between different nations. However, one can easily observe that the movement of translation in the Arab World lacks planning and organisation, a responsibility that falls on the Arab Translators Associations/Federation.

One should not deny the role played in this field by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, but there is a strong need of an Arab body to coordinate efforts of various organisations in the Arab World.

Historically, the translation movement during the Umayyad and Abbasid eras witnessed its golden age. Works in the field of science, philosophy and

humanities were translated from Indian, Persian, Latin and Greek into Arabic. Unfortunately, this movement retreated due to the defeats and frustrations inflicted upon the Arabs.

The translation situation in Jordan was never adequate... Moreover, the number of translators is small and most of them do not have a good command of the languages they deal with. That is why the readers of the translated versions may doubt the value of the translation.

It goes without saying that the Arabs of today cannot keep pace with the contemporary civilisation without translating and benefiting from the cultures and sciences of the developed countries.

The translation situation in Jordan was never adequate. A cultural movement has not been established very well because Jordan is still a young country. Until 1993, there was not even an association for the Jordanian translators to encourage them or promote the translation movement in the country. Translation has

been randomly practised by individual translators or commercial offices. There is not even one single well-known publisher for translated works. In addition, there is no fully-authorised

organisation to control the translation movement in Jordan. Moreover, the number of translators is small and most of them do not have a good command of the languages they deal with. That is why the readers of the translated versions may doubt the value of the translation. Full-time translators are very few, few translated works are deposited in the National Library of the Ministry of Culture and records of translators and translated works are insufficient.

Some educational institutions and government

organisations attach importance to the translation movement in the Kingdom.

Yarmouk University's Department of English Language and Literature offers courses in advanced general translation from English into Arabic and vice versa, specialised technical translation from English into Arabic and vice versa, contrastive Arabic-English linguistics, contrastive terminology, advanced writing, translation theory, semantics and translation and practical training in simultaneous interpretation.

Over 40 students graduated from the programme and are now employed in Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries. They actively and successfully contribute to the cultural development of the Arab countries just as they have played an important role in the development of their homeland.

University of Jordan established, in February 1982, a diploma programme of Arabic/English translation at the Language Centre. In 1990, the programme was transferred to the Department of English where courses similar to those taught in Yarmouk University are followed.

Whenever the translation movement in Jordan is discussed, a cluster of names of some distinguished pioneers in the field of translation springs to mind. Eisa Nauri, for instance, might be considered the most active translator in the field of literature from 1961 until his death almost a decade ago. He translated a good number of short stories, novels and poems during his lifespan. He translated from Italian and English into Arabic and vice versa. His works, written in Arabic, were translated into other languages, such as Spanish, Italian, Russian, French, English, Japanese, etc.

The list of Jordanian translators includes others, such as Husni Fariz and Mahmoud Al Samra. Most of the written translation is directed towards literary works, such as short stories, novels, poetry, drama.

Technical translation lags behind. This might be partly due to the fact that most universities in Jordan teach the scientific subjects in English. This means that translation into Arabic is not really needed.

It goes without saying that there are tens of thousands of technical terms currently in use in different parts of the world which end up into Arabic. Most of these technical terms lie within the domains of electronic equipment, industrial machines, computer sciences, medicine, chemistry, physics, among others. Most of these terms have not been Arabised and those which have been translated are neither equivalent nor convincing.

This deficiency has occasionally caused losses. Jordanian labourers running the machines might run into serious risks due to their ignorance of foreign languages.

The JTA is the Jordanian national professional association of translators and interpreters. It was established in November 1993 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. Up until that time there was no single national professional association, although there were several public and private professional bodies.

The JTA was admitted to the membership of the Arab Translators Federation in June 1995. Fifteen members, out of the eighteen founding members, are university professors specialised in linguistics and/or translation. Currently, the JTA has 87 full members and 20 associate and honorary members.

The association aims at promoting translation from various languages into Arabic and vice versa so as to contribute to the development of the cultural movement on a national, pan-Arab, and international basis; elevating the quality of translation; exchanging relevant translation expertise and information; coordinating with the competent bodies to guarantee the professional rights of translators; training and preparing accredited translators and providing official and non-official institutions working expertise and counsel.

In order to become self-financed, the association has started projects, such as publishing books of translated works, as well as other cultural activities, that would financially help the association carry out its duties.

The writer is on the staff of the Yarmouk University and President of the JTA. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

King leaves for U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

"common approach" to resolving the crisis and resuming the peace process. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said, "There is no difference whatsoever in the common Arab position to the issue of Jerusalem," Dr. Muasher told a press briefing.

The minister said the Washington summit "was not an end-in-itself, but what is important is the outcome of the meeting in concrete terms towards reviving the peace process."

Jordan's "immediate acceptance of the invitation to the summit stemmed from the Kingdom's deep

anxiety" to lift the logjam in the peace process and advance negotiations for comprehensive peace in the region, he added.

In reply to a question on Egyptian participation in the meeting, Dr. Muasher said that regardless of who attends the summit the Jordanian objective remains to be a revitalisation of the peace process.

"Jordan is very much concerned that the peace process is in serious danger," he added.

Replying another question, the minister said King Hussein might hold bilateral meetings with President Clinton and other senior American administration

officials, but "the key focus will be the Palestinian-Israeli track" of peace negotiations.

Asked whether the King was expected to raise any specific bilateral issues with President Clinton, Dr. Muasher pointed out that the idea of the summit had developed so quickly that "we did not really sit down to discuss (bilateral) issues."

Prior to his departure with the King, Prime Minister Kabirji summoned the Israeli ambassador, Shimon Shamir, to lodge a strongly-worded official protest against Israeli actions in Arab East Jerusalem (see separate story).

Bosnia presidency holds meeting

(Continued from page 1)

wanted to convene the presidency on the boundary line between the Serb republic and the Muslim-Croat federation.

Mr. Krajisnik entered the city from the Serb's mountain village headquarters of Pale for the first time since war erupted in April 1992.

Security services had thrown a tight cordon around the building. Reporters said they blocked all traffic and pedestrians from moving within 500 metres of the motel and towed parked cars away.

The presidency, charged with governing a union of Serb and Muslim-Croat territories, was chosen in Bosnia's first post-war general elections on Sept.

14.

Mr. Izetbegovic, won most votes in the presidential race and will serve as the body's chairman for a two-year term.

Mr. Izetbegovic narrowly defeated Mr. Krajisnik, his sworn enemy during 3-1/2 years of war, for the chairman's post.

Mr. Krajisnik had said earlier he did not feel safe meeting in the city centre and wanted the presidency to convene on the boundary line between the Serb republic and the Muslim-Croat federation.

But Western governments and Mr. Izetbegovic dismissed Mr. Krajisnik's proposal as a violation of the spirit of the Dayton peace agreement which ended the Bosnian war.

Reopening of tunnel surprise for many in Israeli cabinet

TEL AVIV (AP) — The most remarkable thing about the Sept. 16 cabinet meeting may have been what was left unsaid.

With Syrian troop movements capturing Israel's attention, ministers and aides chatted about access to Solomon's stables in Jerusalem's Old City and the demolition of a home in the Armenian quarter, officials said.

The subject of completing a tunnel in Jerusalem that runs along one of Islam's holiest shrines came up briefly, but no decision was made.

In fact, the meeting was rather ho-hum, recalled officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But many analysts consider the meeting the catalyst in a succession of events that ended with the tunnel's surprise opening a week later and the eruption of the worst bloodshed between Israelis and Palestinians in decades.

Some top security officials were left in the dark in a decision-making process that some analysts say demonstrated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's penchant for going it largely alone.

In the days after the meeting, Mr. Netanyahu spoke with his military adviser, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, a booster for the tunnel project, said Ben Caspit, an analyst with Maariv newspaper.

He then checked with a handful of other top aides before making his decision as early as Sept. 19, Mr. Caspit said.

"It's easier to say whom he did not consult than whom he did," Mr. Caspit said.

Mr. Olmert and top police officials were told of the decision. The West Bank military commander, army chief of staff, military intelligence and Shin Bet, the internal security agency, were not, officials said.

"The tunnel is in Jerusalem and the consultations in Jerusalem did not include us," army chief Amnon Shahak said afterword on Israel radio.

David Bar-Ilan, a spokesman for Netanyahu, confirmed Shahak was not part of the consultations. "There was a miscommunication there," he acknowledged.

But intelligence agencies were consulted and supported the opening, Bar-Ilan said. Notifying commanders, including those in the West Bank and Gaza, was up to the defence ministry, he said.

On Sunday night, Sept. 22, Israel began observing Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day. After it ended Monday night, the army chief of staff and the West Bank military commander were notified of the tunnel's imminent opening.

Netanyahu finds it is lonely at the top

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu may be the best educated, most articulate and telegenic Israeli to become prime minister. He was a crack commando and his brother is remembered as a national hero.

So now that he needs his people's support, why does he seem so alone?

On Sunday, it was difficult to find a kind word in Israel's media for the beleaguered leader after the Israeli-Palestinian clashes that left more than 70 dead and his predecessors' delicate peace process in tatters.

Critics poured scorn on Mr. Netanyahu's decision-making, saying he barely consulted his security chiefs last week before opening an archaeological tunnel near Jerusalem's main Islamic sites — the act that sparked the riots.

Arab affairs analyst Ehud Yaari called his four months in office "a series of stumbles by a political novice."

But some of the criticism was unusually personal, reflecting widespread animosity toward the U.S.-educated leader.

Social commentator Amnon Dankner said Israel's business and cultural leaders "despise Netanyahu" as an outsider who used American polish and slippery oratory to wrest the country from an entrenched network that has run it for half a century.

Israel's liberal intelligentsia has always disliked Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party and its nationalist attachment to biblical borders. They believe peace with the Palestinians requires giving up land.

Many also believe Israel's prosperity — 40 per cent economic growth in five years — resulted from the new markets in Asia and Europe and investment yielded by a peace process that now seems under threat.

"The peace process was the essence of the growth of Israel," said Benjamin Gaon, head of Koor, Israel's largest industrial concern.

Some Israelis had assumed that Mr. Netanyahu's gift for sound-bites, which set him apart from long-winded rivals, meant he was light on ideology. But his writings and policies suggest otherwise: Mr. Netanyahu appears bent on preserving Israeli rule in the territories demanded by the Palestinians, even at the risk of turmoil.

Elected to Israel's parliament in 1988, he became Likud leader four years later, and last May, at the age of 46, he became Israel's youngest prime minister, defeating 73-year-old Shimon Peres by the narrowest of margins.

It was a remarkably swift rise that skipped a whole generation of Likud aspirants. Thus he is disliked not just by the half of Israel that didn't vote for him, but also by many Likud stalwarts.

But he is not without powerful supporters. Likud officials read the mayhem over the tunnel very differently than the peace camp, claiming Mr. Arafat stage-managed it to make Mr. Netanyahu look bad and squeeze concessions from him.

Benny Begin, a cabinet minister and son of the late prime minister Menachem Begin, maintains that Israel's peace camp was under "an illusion" that Mr. Arafat would play fair.

"From the world of illusions we have returned to the field of thorns of the reality of the Middle East," he said on Israeli TV Saturday.

Mr. Netanyahu can win over American audiences with unaccented idiomatic English. During the Gulf war he won the world's notice by donning a gas mask in the middle of a CNN interview when the air raid sirens sounded.

His critics charge he does not understand the Arabs and looks down on them. But some of the barbs stem from an Israeli tendency to stigmatise anyone perceived as an outsider.

Although born in Jerusalem, Mr. Netanyahu spent his teens in Philadelphia, then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and spent most of the 1980s in the United States as a diplomat.

He returned to Israel for several years to serve in an elite army commando unit, and has maintained Israeli-accented Hebrew.

Yet he is still regarded by some as "not being one of us" — a handicap worsened by his tendency to surround himself with advisers of American background.

"What does he understand about this region... A prime minister who is a clumsy translator from English, a man not from here," wrote author Shulamit Hareven in the Yediot Achronot daily.

One other thing that sets him apart is being Israel's only thrice-married premier, and the only one to confess publicly to an extramarital affair.

His wife Sara, a former airline stewardess and mother of two of his three children, publicly forgave him and is almost always at his side. But she too has drawn media ridicule, especially after nanies she fired in rapid succession described her to tabloids as a tyrant.

Washington summit on track

(Continued from page 1)

with him matters related to the peace process." He added: "We will be closely engaged with the Egyptians."

In a phone conversation, Mr. Arafat assured Dennis B. Ross, chief U.S. mediator for the Mideast, that he will attend, State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said. "We are confident the meeting will take place in the first half of this week," Mr. Davies said.

In Cairo, Mr. Arafat refused comment Monday on reports of a postponement in the summit, but Egypt's Middle East News Agency said he had asked if the talks could be moved back to Sunday. It gave no attribution for the report.

"We have seen hesitations in advance of meetings here before," said Mr. Ross, chief Mideast aide to

Secretary of State Warren Christopher. "What I think this points to in the current circumstance is there has been a decline in the degree of trust. The environment is clearly very sour," Mr. Ross told ABC Television.

In Jerusalem, Palestinian cabinet minister Hanan Ashrawi told ABC, "I think we would like to have this meeting be a success. We need to ensure all the ingredients are in place. We don't want to run the risk of a summit that will end in failure."

Mr. Clinton will participate directly in the sessions beginning Tuesday, meeting both with them individually and together, senior administration officials said. There was no assurance, though, that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat would face each other without an American intermediary — let alone shake

hands. Mr. Netanyahu's decision last Tuesday, without consulting the Palestinians, to open a second entrance to a tourist tunnel that winds near the Al Aqsa Mosque touched off angry Palestinian protests.

A senior U.S. official acknowledged Sunday that Mr. Clinton was taking a political risk in intervening just five weeks before the presidential election. If the mediation fails, or Mr. Clinton puts heat on Mr. Netanyahu, he could lose some points among the electorate.

But, speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said "the consequences of a breakdown in the peace process were evident. The president made the decision (that) the risks of inaction far outweigh other risks."

Jordan lodges strong protest

(Continued from page 1)

with questions related to archaeological sites.

In a statement sent to the Jordan Times, the spokesman said that Ambassador Shamir replied to Mr. Kabirji that "Israel is ready to continue the peace process with the Palestinians" and that "this readiness had existed before the latest events, whose only effect was to delay the negotiations."

The spokesman, Shalom Tourgeman, quoted the ambassador as saying that "in the latest wave of violence we witnessed a new phenomena — such as participation of Palestinian policemen in the shooting and the violence attack on Joseph's Shrine (Nabi Yusef in Nablus)."

"These new developments should be taken into consideration in the planning and implementation of all agreements and the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians," Mr. Tourgeman quoted the ambassador as saying.

That appeared to a reference to an option raised by a Netanyahu advisor and rejected by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to disarm the 30,000-strong PNA police force.

In his press briefing, Dr. Muasher said as far as Jordan was concerned, the reopening of the tunnel along the Al Aqsa Mosque was a "unilateral Israeli attempt to impose its sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem by facts accomplished."

In answer to a question on the American position and its abstention from voting on a U.N. Security Council resolution on the latest events in Arab East Jerusalem and other parts of the Palestinian territories, Dr. Muasher said the Israeli move to reopen the tunnel "did not have the support of any external party."

Nor was it coordinated with the Palestinians or Jordan, he said.

"The Israeli move has seriously jeopardised the peace process," said the minister. "The peace process is in real danger and we look forward to the Washington summit to coming up with concrete measures to revive the peace process immediately."

U.N. aide expects Iraq deal

(Continued from page 1)

"The majority of people in Iraq are living below the poverty line, and recent military action has made the situation worse," said Mr. Akashi — whose Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is seeking \$39.9 million for emergency aid.

The DHA appeal to the international community, launched last week, is meant to help cover the coming three months while the "oil-for-food" deal is put in place.

"The cumulative effects of economic sanctions: hyper-inflation, unemployment and a 30 per cent drop

in crop production this year have led to a disquieting level of hardship now suffered by vulnerable groups in Iraq," the appeal said.

Mr. Akashi, former U.N. special envoy in Cambodia and Bosnia, told Monday's news conference the world body was "carefully assessing" whether all conditions were right for the long-negotiated May deal to be implemented.

A U.N. assessment team is currently in Iraq and was due to return to Baghdad on Monday following a visit to the north led by the world body's coordinator for Iraqi issues Gualtiero Fulcheri. He is due to send Mr. Gbali a report on Tuesday.

Militiaman killed in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

lah guerrillas on the Israeli military outpost at Rihan, the sources added. An Israeli army spokesman said Monday the soldier's injuries were minor.

Israeli and SLA artillery gunners retaliated for the mortar attack by shelling suspected guerrilla trails.

There were no reports of guerrilla casualties.

Hizbollah is a Shiite Muslim group fighting to oust Israel and its SLA allies from the "security zone."

Israel has controlled the border strip for nearly two decades to protect its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Patrols continue despite tension

(Continued from page 1)

them away.

Israeli security chiefs have warned of possible attacks by Palestinian bombers in response to the tunnel opening.

Turkey urges calm

Turkey called on Monday for reason to prevail between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The loss of life, the shooting against the Palestinian demonstrators are most disturbing. We are

hoping that again reason will prevail in the area and the parties will find a way to stop that bloodshed."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacani told a news conference.

Under pressure from Turkey's influential military, Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has backed off on promises to scrap a military training accord signed with Israel in February.

Turkey also signed a defence industry deal with the Jewish state in August.

Top IMF body okays debt plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The top policy-making body of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "warmly endorsed" here Sunday a plan to cut the overwhelming debt burden of some of the world's poorest countries.

Effectively launching the debt initiative jointly proposed by the fund and the World Bank, the IMF Interim Committee welcomed news that official creditors in the Paris Club are prepared to provide debt reduction of up to 80 per cent for debtors found eligible for support.

The panel, chaired by Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, also "urged other debtors to participate" in the debt scheme on an equitable basis.

The committee in its final statement made no direct reference to gold sales by the IMF to finance its participation in the debt scheme, as strongly advocated by the United States despite German opposition.

Asked to comment on possible gold sales, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a news conference that "today this decision (to sell gold) would be premature."

However, he added, in due time, "if it is needed, a decision would be taken with a desirable broad consensus."

Mr. Camdessus said the Interim Committee had "not outvoted" either side.

G-10 finance chiefs vow to keep up anti-inflation guard

WASHINGTON (R) — Top finance officials from rich industrial nations warned Sunday that inflation was down but not out, and pledged not to let down their guard in the fight to keep price pressures in check.

The officials, here for the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), welcomed signs of faster global growth but said that more needed to be done to aid poor nations and shelter the world economy from future shocks.

They promised to press ahead with a plan to put debt-ridden poor countries back on their feet and called for rapid action to beef up

the emergency resources available to the IMF for handling financial catastrophes.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said industrial countries have had success in fighting inflation and called that a "major achievement."

"But we must not be complacent about inflation now that it seems to be under control," he told the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee.

"Monetary authorities must remain alert to the possible need to take pre-emptive action where there is a threat of increasing inflationary pressures," he added.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin reassured fel-

low committee members from other nations that the United States was not relaxing its vigilance against inflation.

Questions about U.S. commitment to the fight against inflation have arisen following last week's decision by the U.S. Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged.

The IMF in its World Economic Outlook advocated higher interest rates in the United States, arguing that the U.S. economy was growing too fast for its own good, raising the risk of inflation.

"I can assure you that we will be on guard against a resurgence in inflation," Mr. Rubin said.

German Finance Minister

Theo Waigel sounded a similar cautionary tone in his speech to the Interim Committee.

"The industrial countries generally have inflation under control," he said. "However we should not conclude from this that monetary policy may relax in its awareness or is available for other goals."

Germany has already cut interest rates sharply. But some analysts have argued it should do more to help offset the drag on its economy from planned budget cuts under the Maastricht treaty for the launch of a single European currency in 1999.

Mr. Rubin welcomed the progress that many European nations have made in

reducing their deficits, while recognising the tough choices that has entailed.

European Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy said an increasing number of European countries may be ready to meet criteria for a single European currency after a big effort to cut budget deficits.

"I think a significant number will be ready in 1997. When I see the present efforts I am optimistic," he told reporters.

Italy and Spain last week unveiled budgets designed to ensure their participation in European monetary union (EMU) at its start in 1999.

Europe's plans for a single currency have won increasing interest and

credibility here, though Mr. Rubin and others have warned the region's high unemployment remains a blackspot.

Rich nations from the Group of Ten did unite behind the need for a doubling of the IMF's emergency funds to \$50 billion and called for a rapid agreement to bring that about.

The 11-nation G-10 — Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States — already provide about \$25 billion in emergency resources to the IMF.

They are looking to other nations to chip in some money.

G-7 sparks interest in single European currency

WASHINGTON (R) — Europe's plans for a single currency have won increasing interest and credibility among its main trading partners, though officials warned Sunday that the region's high unemployment remained a blackspot.

"It is clearly a subject of great interest," French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said after meeting his counterparts from the United States, Japan, Canada, Germany, Italy and Britain on Saturday.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said he came away from a Saturday meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) rich nations with the impression that Europe was committed to EMU.

"It would be fair to say there was a general expression that they were moving toward an EMU," he said.

Europe plans to create a single currency in 1999 for those countries which meet certain tough economic conditions.

European officials expressed confidence that a long-awaited pick-up in economic growth, needed to ensure the success of the EMU project, was on the way.

But both they and the United States warned Sunday that high unemployment remained a problem.

"High rates of unemployment continue to trouble many nations in Europe, highlighting the importance

of structural reforms that will enhance job creation and labour market flexibility," Mr. Rubin told the Interim Monetary Fund Interim Committee.

Improved credibility for EMU, lower long-term interest rates and a more balanced policy mix had set the stage for a near-term rebound in economic growth, European Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy told the Interim Committee.

But, he added: "The expected growth performance is not yet sufficient to secure any visible reduction in unemployment over the near term."

Europe needed to implement labour market reforms

to bring down its unemployment rate, he said.

According to Mr. Arthuis, European ministers outlined in detail agreements reached last weekend in Dublin which are designed to ensure currency and fiscal stability after the launch of the euro.

"The others are interested in the fact that when the mark disappears, its successor currency should be able to take exactly the role of the mark," Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said.

"Otherwise there could be flight into the dollar which would have consequences in the currency markets. No one is interested in that happening," he said.

"They are asking ques-

tions about what the changes will mean for financial markets and currencies," Italian Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi told reporters.

Mr. Arthuis said that the euro would reflect the economies of the countries in monetary union — which will include the strongest economies that have passed the test of fiscal and monetary credibility laid out in the Maastricht treaty. "I

have no worries about the (euro) exchange rate," he said.

All the G-7 finance ministers also agreed that they favoured a strong dollar at their meeting in Washington.

France, which has traditionally called for a higher dollar, dropped its lone insistence on this matter, with Mr. Arthuis saying simply that he favoured a strong U.S. currency.

Algerian social security faces huge deficit

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian social security system has run up a deficit of more than 60 billion dinars (\$1.1 billion) so far in 1996, according to a report by the Welfare Fund, the daily El Watan has said.

The fund blames the state in particular for failing to pay its dues, reporting that the president's office, the government, 18 ministries and the municipal authorities in Algiers had run up a collective debt of more than 10 billion dinars (\$183 million).

The private daily, pub-

lishing extracts and figures from the report, said that the worst single payers were the president's office, the ministry of higher education, the foreign ministry and the prime minister's office.

"We are in an upside-down world where it is finally the poorest sectors of the population who provide the wealthy with a comfortable social welfare net," the paper said in an editorial, making ironic reference to the "net" established by the authorities to protect the impoverished.

In its front page com-

mentary, El Watan pointed out that the "senior functionaries of state (also have) the best chance of gaining access to health care" largely financed by the social security system.

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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NICCY
TOQUA
RIMMOE
ROBRAW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHOOP LEECH ENCAP BETRAY
Answer: Where careful shoppers always find bargains — THE CHEAP HEAP

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen
GLASBERGEN

"Potato chips and beer cost more than cereal and milk, but you never rant and rave about that!"

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n' Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- of living
- Swift
- Flavoring plant
- Lea
- Wear away by abrasion
- Butterine
- Newlywed
- Fastener
- Wager
- Small container
- Historian
- Hannah
- Escapes
- Sidless wagon
- Lute of India
- VA city
- Plant with sword-shaped leaves
- Nonsense
- Potpouri
- Hereditary unit
- Cease-fire
- Cassini of fashion
- Opposed
- Roadhouse sign
- Within — of (very near to)
- Caveman's period?
- Treatises
- Up in — (irate)
- Fan kin
- Bouquets
- Salt
- Swiss canton
- CA city
- Marry
- Parrots
- Related
- maternally
- Not working
- Stock exchange membership
- One who appraises
- Eliot work

DOWN

- Baseball great
- Giant of myth
- Narrow cut
- Spread hay to dry
- Government
- Wall hanging
- Kin of billiards
- Wedding vow
- Diplomatic protest
- Newlywed
- Distinctive style
- Diplomat
- Whitewash
- Desert one's party
- Baffle
- Cheer
- Blue flower
- Records
- Tales
- Go-between
- earth (captured)
- Way
- Pilchers
- Family circle member
- Venitian
- magistrates
- Vaunts
- One who hauls loads
- Pick — in (find fault with)
- Time period
- Dowry, in
- Scotland
- Metal mixture
- Woe is me
- Lasso
- Grecian theaters
- Without water
- Ravel
- Actor's part
- Article
- nutshell
- 1,000 pounds

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 1, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righier Foundation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't endeavor to force situations today which require a different method of operation to make them operate successfully. Later tonight you can get together with close friends and have fun out on the town.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Refrain from disagreeing with another over some bill. Be with fellow associates and your loved ones and have a happy day today. This evening you can meet with those in authority and discuss your career activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Others appear to be throwing cold water on your ambitions today, however charm them into changing their attitude and you can gain their assistance. Later this evening you can consult with a knowledgeable person for ideas.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Wait for a better time today to question a fellow associate for his or her ideas concerning your career activities and what is needed for your success. This evening will be good for spending quality time with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A matter concerning your mate can be quite depressing today, however don't let it upset your good plan for the day. Later this evening you can handle any difficult situation with the assistance of a bigwig who can make suggestions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Forget home concerns today and be out in the business world to get fine results. Avoid someone who is jealous of you or you will discover that you will be railing your brain over a situation which does not exist at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your career activities completed remarkably well today, since a bigwig has his or her eye on you. Be charming in whatever you do later this evening and thereby you will gain the recognition which you are seeking.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study a family matter thoroughly today and clear it up. Get into amusements later this evening which will relax your nerves so that you will be calm and be able to handle any situation which is brought to your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A strange situation arises today which you can handle with relative ease today if you use your intuitive powers and consult with a knowledgeable person. Later this evening you can relax at home with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how today to get out of some unusual situation which is present and make the best of your opportunities. You may feel limited this evening however everything goes very well for you on some important project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mate may have a difficulty today so be sure to be of assistance and he or she will be very grateful. Later this evening join close friends and have some fun out on the town, thereby putting aside any other concerns.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Know how to best handle a fellow associate today who is too demanding and could cause difficulty in your career activities. Later this evening you can be with a knowledgeable person you admire and get helpful suggestions.

Birthstone of October:
Opal — Tourmaline.

sive storage facilities so the pressure for them will be to sell into the export market," Mr. De Maria said. Another assessment, by Marklin Williams, head of grain trading at Goldman Sachs Co., suggested that problems in corn (maize) and soybeans could again rally grain costs generally. He says U.S. soybeans face a threat of frost, grain stocks remain low and economists underestimated demand for animal feed as increased affluence in Asia means people there eat more meat. Regardless of market trends, the World Bank said last week that 800 million children around the globe will continue to go to bed malnourished because of poverty in rural areas.

francesco
smalto
Louis Feraud
(Men's Wear)
MAURICE AKKAWI
Jubai Amman - Rainbow Str
Tel. 625407
Amman Jordan

Seles leads U.S. past Spain in Fed Cup final

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — Monica Seles unleashed a backhand crosscourt winner and Lindsay Davenport looked like she had just hit the biggest jackpot in Atlantic City.

The shot completed Seles' comeback against Spanish No. 1 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, a 3-6 6-3 6-1 victory that gave the United States the 1996 Fed Cup title, avenging losses to Spain in the final the past two years.

It also took the weight of the world off Davenport's shoulders, turning what could have been a pressure-packed match into a meaningless exhibition.

"It feels great. I was very glad when the match was over," said Seles, also noting her teammates' joy.

"I was very relieved," said Olympic champion Davenport. "We wanted it over in three."

"I have a terrible record against Conchita (Martinez) and the doubles, you never know what's going to happen when it comes down to two-alls, so we definitely wanted it over," she continued.

Unfortunately, precious few people got to see Davenport's smile light up the Atlantic City convention centre. Those who decided to stay behind at the slot machines missed a Seles-Sanchez clash that had all the intensity of a grand slam final, before the co-world number one clinched the 15th Fed Cup title for the United States and first in six



The 1996 United States Federation Cup team of (L-R) Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Linda Wild and Monica Seles, hold the U.S. flag as they celebrate their clinching of the Fed Cup Championship over Spain in Atlantic City New Jersey. Spain was the defending champion (Reuters photo).

years, ending Spain's stranglehold on the trophy.

Sanchez and Martinez had led Spain to its sixth consecutive Fed Cup final with a chance to win a fourth straight championship and fifth overall.

But the balance of power shifted back across the Atlantic when the Yugoslav-born Seles began playing for her adopted country this year.

"We expected Monica to win, maybe too easily. In the first set Arantxa played unbelievably," said Davenport. "I was so nervous during the last two sets, screaming in the team room."

Sanchez came out of the blocks fast, going for her shots and running Seles ragged with end-to-end groundstrokes and well-timed drop shots.

"I gave everything I had," said Sanchez. "We both came with great shots. I played very well, she just better to beat me."

"She just came up with great shots when she needed them. It could have been a different story if I had won," she said.

Seles struggled on her service games in the first set in marked contrast to Saturday's match against Martinez when she served four love games.

Seles also demonstrated genuine sportsmanship at a cost to herself during the seventh game when Sanchez had an apparent ace called out.

The Spaniards argued the call and Seles conceded that she thought it was in, giving Sanchez the point in a game the Spaniards won.

"She felt she did the right thing and kept going," said

U.S. captain Billie Jean King.

Sanchez then took the next two games for the set, and the Australian Open champion looked in real trouble when she lost her serve to open the second set.

But Seles broke right back and started belting more winners from that point on.

The second set was filled with long, exciting points — two champions testing each other with every stroke. Seles worked hard for a break that put her up 4-2, missing on three break chances and saving three game points before converting her fourth break point.

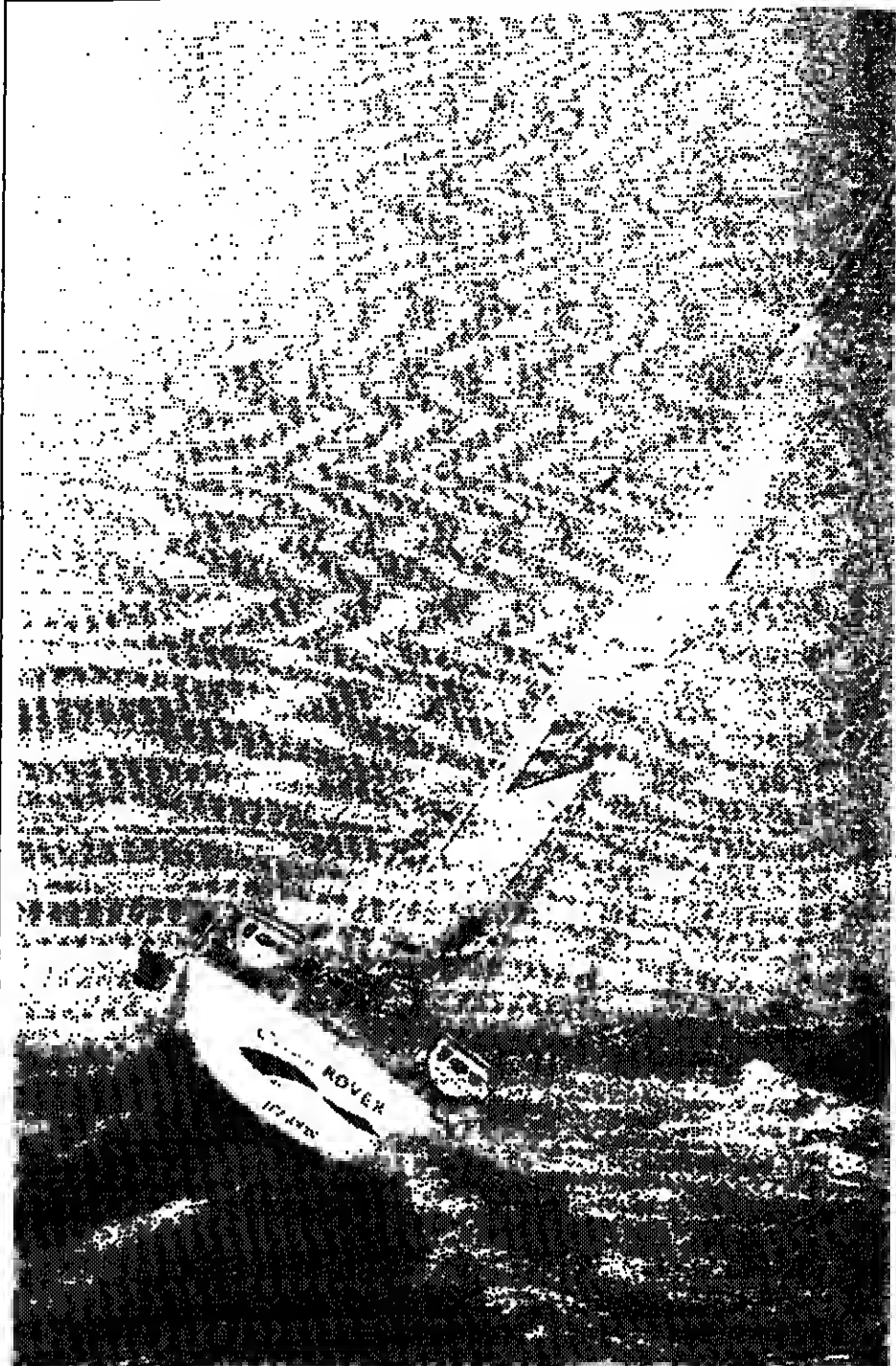
But never-say-die Sanchez broke Seles at love in the next game, putting the set back on serve.

Undaunted, Seles raised her game yet again, breaking the Spaniard for 5-3 before taking the set with four big serves.

By the third set, Sanchez seemed to know her golden opportunity had slipped away and, while she kept fighting, Seles was in control, winning the last five games of the match.

"It's very special," Seles said of her first successful team experience. "We wanted to bring the cup back to the United States."

Echoed Davenport: "It felt great. We've been trying to win it for so long and finally we did it."



The round the world yacht Ocean Rover heels over in strong winds at the start of the BT Global Challenge Round the World yacht race in Southampton. The boats competing in the race have to circumnavigate the world the most difficult way, against prevailing winds (Reuters photo).

Hentgen wins 20th, Anderson hits 50th homer

TORONTO (R) — On the final day of the regular season, Pat Hentgen staked an outside claim to the Cy Young award with his 20th win as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the playoff-bound Baltimore Orioles 4-1 Sunday.

Hentgen (20-10, 3.22 era) established a career high for wins and joined the Yankees' Andy Pettite as the only A.L. Pitchers with 20.

He allowed one run — Brady Anderson's record-setting 50th homer — and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings.

But he will have a tough time outpolling Pettite, who won 21 games with a 3.87 era and anchored the injury-riddled staff of the American League East champion Yankees.

"The season's over," Hentgen said. "The Cy is out of my hands. If it happens, it happens. I think they're gonna look at the numbers and the numbers don't lie."

For the 12th time this season, Anderson led off the game with a homer, breaking the Major-League record set by Bobby Bonds of San Francisco in 1973.

In Kansas City, Tim Lincecum allowed one run over 8 1/3 innings and Joe Randa homered and drove in two runs as the Royals denied the Cleveland Indians their 100th win, 4-1.

Kansas City finished last in the A.L. League Central at 75-86, the first time in team history the Royals have ended up in the basement.

Cleveland, which won its second straight A.L. Central, finished 99-62, falling short of becoming the first team since the 1979-80 Orioles to post back-to-back 100-win seasons.

In Boston, Reggie Jefferson's one-out single in the bottom of the ninth scored Darren Bragg and gave the Red Sox a 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees.



The San Diego Padres celebrate winning the National League West Division against the Los Angeles Dodgers, 2-0. Chris Gwynn's pinch hit 2 run double sealed the Dodgers fate in the 11th inning (Reuters photo).

A.L. Rookie of the year favourite Derek Jeter hit his 10th homer in the sixth that lifted the Yankees (92-70), who won the A.L. East and face Texas in the first round of the playoffs. Jeter hoisted his RBI total to 78, the most by a Yankees shortstop since Frank Crosetti in 1936.

At Texas, Kevin Elster completed a phenomenal

comeback season by cracking a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth that lifted the Rangers past the California Angels 4-3.

The Rangers, who won the A.L. West for their first-ever post-season appearance, secured their second 90-win season in team history.

At Minnesota, Paul

Molitor capped a magical season with an RBI single in the bottom of the 10th that lifted the twins to a 5-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

The 40-year-old Molitor, who earlier this month collected his 3,000th hit, stroked his third hit of the game, boosting his season total to 228, most in the major leagues.

In Detroit, Matt Mieske's two-run single in the top of the 10th gave the Milwaukee Brewers a 7-5 victory over the Tigers, who finished the season with a club-record 17 straight home losses and the worst record in baseball in 27 years.

In Oakland, Geronimo Berron had a sacrifice fly in a two-run third inning as the Athletics trimmed the Seattle Mariners 3-1 in the shortest game this season for both teams.

The game lasted just two hours.

Zuelle triumphs at last in Tour of Spain

MADRID (R) — Alex Zuelle won his first Tour of Spain Sunday and was followed home by fellow Swiss Laurent Dufaux and Tony Rominger.

Zuelle maintained his six minutes advantage over Dufaux on the final stage with Rominger a further two minutes back.

The last leg ended with a traditional sprint finish in which Belgian Tom Steels crossed the line first.

Zuelle finished second behind Rominger in 1993 but had been dogged by bad luck in his attempts to win a major race.

Rominger's bid to win a fourth vuelta had foundered after he dropped nearly eight minutes on the third stage. But he fought back to win two time trials, and both he and Dufaux moved up a place when Frenchman Laurent Jalabert dropped from second to 20th because of a stomach upset.

Rominger also took the king of the mountains title. Fittingly Jalabert was active in the final sprint but he had to settle for fourth place as Steels took his second stage victory ahead of Italian Nicola Minali.

While the Swiss dominated the overall standings, the Italians achieved 11 stage wins out of 22, most of them in sprints.

But it was a disastrous race for the home riders. The Spaniards failed to win a single stage for the first time in the race's history. Their highest finisher was Fernando Escartin, 10th.

The race lost much of its following when Miguel Indurain retired just after the halfway mark.

Vikings, Panthers fall from NFL unbeaten ranks

NEW YORK (AP) — Phillip Sparks ended Minnesota's fourth-quarter comeback and Jacksonville stopped Carolina's magic as the last two unbeaten teams in the U.S. National Football League's NFC lost Sunday.

Vikings quarterback Warren Moon had Minnesota in place for another fourth-quarter comeback until Sparks intercepted him at the New York 4 to end the Vikings' final drive with 3:59 to play and preserve the Giants' 15-10 victory.

Carolina, which fell 24-14 to the Jaguars, might have lost much more than a game when top draft pick Tshimanga Biakabutuka went down with a knee injury. Coach Dom Capers said Biakabutuka will undergo an MRI exam.

Biakabutuka, beginning to hit his stride after missing training camp as a holdout, sprained his left knee in the first quarter. On the next possession, backup Anthony Johnson fumbled the ball away at the Jacksonville 1, and the Jaguars rode the momentum to a surprising victory over the first regular-season meeting between the NFL's two second-year teams.

"It was a day for some statements to be made," said Jacksonville coach Tom Coughlin.

The Vikings were in a familiar position — trailing in the fourth quarter — but lost their chance to rally for the fifth time in as many weeks when Moon was intercepted. The Vikings, coming off a key victory over NFC Central favorite Green Bay, had outscored the opposition 42-3 in the final period of their first four games.

Aaron Pierce scored on a 1-yard run on a tight end around and Brad Daluiso kicked three field goals for the Giants (2-3) at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

At Jacksonville, Florida, Mark Brunell directed three time-consuming touchdown drives and completed 15-of-27 pass for 214 yards and a touchdown. James Stewart scored on two short runs for Jacksonville (2-3).

The Panthers (3-1) saw quarterback Steve Buerlein sacked five times, twice by Tony Brackens, who also forced two fumbles and recovered two fumbles.

At Chicago, Jeff Jaeger, cut by Oakland (1-4) in training, kicked four field goals, including a decisive 30-yarder with 11 seconds remaining at Chicago.

The Bears (2-3) trailed 17-3 in the second half and were jeered by their fans. But they rallied behind two interceptions, three final-quarter field goals by Jaeger

and the play of 47-year veteran quarterback Dave Krieg, who started in place of the injured Erik Kramer.

Playing in Cincinnati for the first time, John Elway threw for a season-high 335 yards and two touchdowns as Denver (4-1) recovered from a loss a week earlier to Kansas City. Elway raised his career record against the Bengals (1-3) to 6-0.

At Pittsburgh, Mike Tomczak threw two first-quarter touchdown passes following Houston mistakes and Jerome Bettis ran for 115 yards. The Steelers (3-1) have won three straight since a season-opening loss to Jacksonville, matching their best first-month start under coach Bill Cowher.

The visiting Oilers (2-2) fell to Pittsburgh for the fifth straight time. At Tampa, Florida, Scott Mitchell threw for 230 yards and two touchdowns, and Bennie Blades scored on a 98-yard interception return as Detroit (3-2) dropped host Tampa Bay to 0-5 for the sixth time in 21 seasons.

Barry Sanders, who has rushed for more yards against Tampa Bay (1,763) than any other opponent, gained 73 yards on 15 carries.

The Detroit defense forced four turnovers and held the host Bucs to 74 yards in the second half.

At Baltimore, Earnest Byner ran for 149 yards, and Vinny Testaverde drove Baltimore 75 yards to break a 10-10 tie early in the final quarter as the Ravens (2-2) kept New Orleans winless (0-5).

Byner carried 24 times and broke off a 42-yard run — his longest since he went 54 yards as a rookie against Houston in 1984. Saints quarterback Jim Everett completed 23 of 30 but threw for only 20 yards and a 31-yard touchdown to Michael Haynes.

Results

Baltimore	17	New Orleans	10
Chicago	19	Oakland	17
Denver	14	Cincinnati	10
Jacksonville	24	Carolina	14
Ny Giants	15	Minnesota	10
Pittsburgh	30	Houston	16
Detroit	27	Tampa Bay	0
Arizona	31	St Louis	28
San Diego	22	Kansas City	19
Green Bay	31	Seattle	10
San Francisco	39	Atlanta	17

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Christopher Lambert, John Lone & Joan Chen in THE HUNTED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zakiin NASER 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Robert Redford & Michelle Pfeiffer in UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Arnold Schwarzenegger in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	AMNUN THEATRE & CINEMA TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	NAHIL & HISHAM'S THEATRE TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Juventus go top as Bayern hold crisis meeting

ROME (R) — Michele Padovano struck an eighth minute goal and Croatia's Alen Boksic was sent off as European Cup holders Juventus defeated Fiorentina 1-0 to open up a one point lead at the top of Italy's Serie A on Sunday.

Padovano, playing his first full match of the season, headed home after Angelo Di Livio completed a fine run to the by-line with a pinpoint cross.

Both Yugoslav Vladimir Jugovic and Antonio Conte hit the woodwork as Juventus went clear for the first time since their 1995 championship-winning season.

But the Turin side's home win was marred when Boksic was shown a red card for elbowing Portugal's Rui Costa in the face in injury time. The Croat now faces an automatic one match suspension.

Juventus now have 10 points from four matches, one ahead of champions Milan, who earlier had briefly led the table after defeating Perugia 3-0 at home.

Despite taking the lead in the opening minute through George Weah's fourth goal in four matches, Milan owed their victory to individual skill rather than teamwork.

Until Croatia's Zvonimir Boban was sent off in the 67th minute for his second bookable offence, Perugia's midfield dominated the champions, apparently content to sit on their advantage.

Down to 10-men, weah, with his second, then Roberto Baggio, with a curling free-kick, stemmed Perugia's fighting spirit.

A second-half substitute after starting his second match on the bench, Baggio's goal earned an ovation — and a vote of confidence from Milan's vice-president Adriano Galliani.

"Roby shouldn't worry," he said. "(Ruud) Gullit and (Marco) Van Basten both tasted the sub's bench at Milan."

Milan's arch-rivals Inter, held 1-1 at Atalanta, missed the chance to stay level with Juventus by conceding Filippo Inzaghi's equaliser five minutes from time.

Until Inzaghi's late blow, French international Yuri Djorkaeff's 44th minute strike, following a goal-mouth scramble, looked like giving all three-points to Roy Hodgson's side.

Instead, they now lie third on eight points. Parma, leaders at the start of the day, followed up midweek elimination from the UEFA Cup with their first defeat of the season.

2-1 to a resurgent Lazio at Rome's Olympic Stadium. Igor Protti, signed from Bari in the summer, opened the scoring in the 26th minute with his first goal for Lazio.

Italy's Pierluigi Casiraghi added a second in the 61st before Dino Baggio pulled a goal back leaving Lazio to survive a tense finale for their first win of the season.

Parma dropped to fourth, level on points with four others — Bologna, Roma, Udinese and Napoli, whose 1-0 win at Sampdoria was the Neapolitan's first away success in almost a year.

Beckenbauer blasts Bayern's 'selfish stars'

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer blasted the over-inflated egos of his stars after their 3-0 defeat by Werder Bremen at the weekend and demanded an immediate improvement in Wednesday's cup clash with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"The selfishness must stop," Beckenbauer wrote in Monday's edition of the Bild daily. "Every player must be ready to help the other. That's what's been missing."

Bayern players and management held crisis meetings on Sunday to discuss the team's recent poor form. Saturday's dismal showing came hard on the heels of their midweek of UEFA Cup exit at the hands of Valencia.



Liverpool's Norwegian international Stig Bjornebye (left) challenges Iain Dowie (right) of West Ham for the ball during their Premier League match at Upton Park, September 29. Liverpool won the game 2-1 (Reuters photo)

ings on Sunday to discuss the team's recent poor form. Saturday's dismal showing came hard on the heels of their midweek of UEFA Cup exit at the hands of Valencia.

Beckenbauer acknowledged the current situation was similar to last season, when Bayern began brightly but faded away as the players engaged in a war of behind-the-scenes sniping and public squabbles.

"But at that time, we had chalked up seven wins so we felt secure and underestimated the signs of trouble," the former World Cup-winning captain and coach said. "That won't happen to us again."

Out-of-form striker Juergen Klinsmann, substituted at half-time against Bremen, rapped: "We've got major problems in building up our game and that goes right through the team. The whole system isn't working."

"I just hope we can pull ourselves together and show a reaction against Moenchengladbach."

Beckenbauer went further: "I demand that the team works like crazy and gives its all for 90 minutes. It's their duty to do that on Wednesday."

PSG retain lead

Paris St. Germain conceded their first goals of the season in a 2-2 draw at Guingamp on Sunday but remained top of the French first division.

PSG, unbeaten in eight outings, found themselves two goals down inside 14 minutes.

But they were saved once again by their Brazilian duo of Rai and Leonardo.

who scored in the 25th and 64th minutes.

Second-placed Bastia and third-placed Bordeaux failed to make ground after drawing with Nancy and Marseille respectively.

Bastia trail by three points and Bordeaux four. Promising striker Stephane Carnot opened the scoring for Guingamp in the eighth minute with a powerful shot between the legs of goalkeeper Vincent Fernandez.

Six minutes later, Lionel Rouxel took advantage of a misunderstanding between Fernandez and defender Laurent Fournier to lob the keeper, who replaced injured international Bernard Lama last week.

PSG replied in the 25th minute after Patrice Loko was felled by Guingamp keeper Angelo Hugues. Rai converted the penalty.

The Parisians dominated the second half and in the 64th minute, Leonardo levelled with a brilliant free-kick.

Late goal saves Ajax

Defending champions Ajax continued their stuttering recent form on Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Twente Enschede in the Dutch League.

The Amsterdam side, who lost 1-0 to Grasshoppers Zurich in their Euro-

pean Champions League match on Wednesday, were a goal behind for most of the match and looked set for another defeat until Twente midfielder Paul Bosvelt was sent off in the 80th minute for receiving a second yellow card.

Within two minutes of his departure, defender Winston Bogarde scored the equaliser, but his side are still seven points behind leaders Feyenoord Rotterdam who lost 4-2 away at Vitesse Arnhem, their first defeat of the season.

Arco Jochemsen and Rob Makaay both scored twice to sink Feyenoord, who nevertheless came back strongly with goals from Pablo Sanchez and defender Bernard Schuitman in the last 15 minutes.

Second-placed PSV Eindhoven also drew, 2-2 against lowly FC Utrecht. They took an early lead when defender Jaap Stam headed home from a corner in the 19th minute, but Utrecht levelled one minute later with a low diagonal shot from the edge of the box by Michael Mols.

Just 15 minutes later John Van Loen gave the home team the 2-1 lead when he intercepted a back pass from PSV skipper Arthur Numan and it took a solo goal from top-scorer Luc Nilis, his seventh of the season, to give PSV their equalizer.

Draper loses 1st round match

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Sweden's Thomas Johansson survived a second-set scare to down Australian Scott Draper 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the Heineken Open Monday.

Johansson joined South African Grant Stafford, Frenchman Guillaume Raoux and American Jonathan Stark in the second round.

Stafford finished strongly to defeat big-serving Czech Martin Damm 7-6, 6-0. Raoux beat up-and-coming south African Neville Godwin 6-3, 6-3 while stark rallied from a set down to stop Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Johansson, ranked 93rd on the ATP Tour, produced thunderous returns from the baseline, with the fast carpet at the Singapore indoor stadium assisting his power game after draper broke serve early in the first set.

The Australian left-hander, who reached the last 16 of the French Open in 1995 and 1996, levelled the match with the second set. But Johansson needed just one break in the decider — and got it in the sixth game.

The break came after Draper slipped heavily in the fifth game and twisted his left ankle.

"I thought I played pretty well," said Johansson. "I played well from the back-court, my serving was okay, there are just a few little things generally I would like to improve on."

Draper said the twisted ankle was not a contributing factor to his defeat although his victorious opponent thought otherwise.

"My serve was disappointing but apart from that I played well. I just need to tighten up things a bit."

Johansson said the ankle must have hurt. "It looked bad. I think he must have felt the pain for the rest of the match and it must have been at the back of his mind though he tried not to show it on court."

Sampras's season not bad just difficult

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — If winning seven titles, including the U.S. Open, is a bad year, then Pete Sampras says he wouldn't mind having a few more.

In devastating form, the world number one claimed his seventh tournament title of the year and 43rd of his career on Sunday with a straight sets victory over Germany's Hendrik Dreekmann at the Swiss indoor championship.

The \$137,000 Sampras pocketed pushed his season earnings over \$1.7 million and leaves him on course to finish the season as the world number one for the fourth straight year.

But despite his accomplishments and continued presence atop the rankings, talk persists that this has been a subpar campaign for the 25-year-old American.

That perception exists primarily because the focus has been on what Sampras has lost this season, rather than what he has won.

For the first time in four years Sampras failed to win at least two Grand Slam titles, settling for one — his fourth U.S. Open.

And he also let the French Open title, the only Grand Slam title to elude him, slip through his fingers — again.

"Everyone has been talking about what a bad year I'm having but it's been fine," said Sampras, winner of a career high 10 titles in 1994. "OK, maybe it hasn't been as good as some in the past but I've been pretty consistent."

"People have to realise you can't have the kind of years every year like I've had the last three."

The fact is Sampras hasn't been having a bad year, just a difficult one — off the court.

Early in the season he struggled with the death of close friend and coach Tim Gullikson.

Now as it draws to a close, he finds himself having to deny reports that he's suffering from anaemia.

The picture of an exhausted Sampras hunched over his racquet vomiting on court during his gruelling quarter-final match against Alex Corretja at the U.S. Open has prompted speculation about the state of Sampras' health.



Pete Sampras

"This whole anaemia thing is a bunch of nonsense," said Sampras, who showed no signs of fatigue at the Swiss indoors, only a little rust.

"Everyone is just guessing — I am not anaemic. "It was just a very hot day and I ran out of fluids and minerals."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI

JUST KIDDING!

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH: ♠ K 5 3, ♥ K J 4, ♦ A J 7 2, ♣ 6 4 3. WEST: ♠ A Q J 10 2, ♥ Q 9, ♦ K 10 9 8 3, ♣ 8 8. EAST: ♠ 8 6, ♥ 10 7 5, ♦ Q 8 4, ♣ K Q 7 5 2. SOUTH: ♠ 9 7 4, ♥ A 9 8 6 3 2, ♦ 5, ♣ A J 10.

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 27 2NT Pass 30 30 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠. In recent years, the Junior teams of Israel, France, Italy and Turkey have staged a contest for the Mediterranean Cup. This year the event was hosted by Israel immediately prior to the Israel Bridge Festival, and the local team won going away. This hand is from the Israel-Turkey encounter.

Four hearts became the contract at both tables. Where Turkey sat

North-South, the auction went as shown. After a light opening bid by South, West's cue-bid showed spades and an unspecified minor suit. Not surprisingly, North refused to stop short of game.

Against the Israeli at the other table, the Turkish West led the ten of diamonds, won in dummy. With the queen of trumps coming down on the first round, the ace of spades outside and East holding at least one club honor, declarer had no problem losing only two spade tricks and a club.

At the table featured in the auction, David Four found a sensational lead — the queen of spades. Consider the hand from declarer's point of view. West had promised a five-card spade suit and, if the lead was honest, that meant East held a doubleton ace. Therefore, by ducking twice declarer could force West to win the ace and would have a shot for the contract.

That was not to be. When declarer played low from dummy, East started an ace by playing the eight. Taking no chances, West continued with ace of spades and another for partner to ruff. The defenders still had to collect a club trick for down one.

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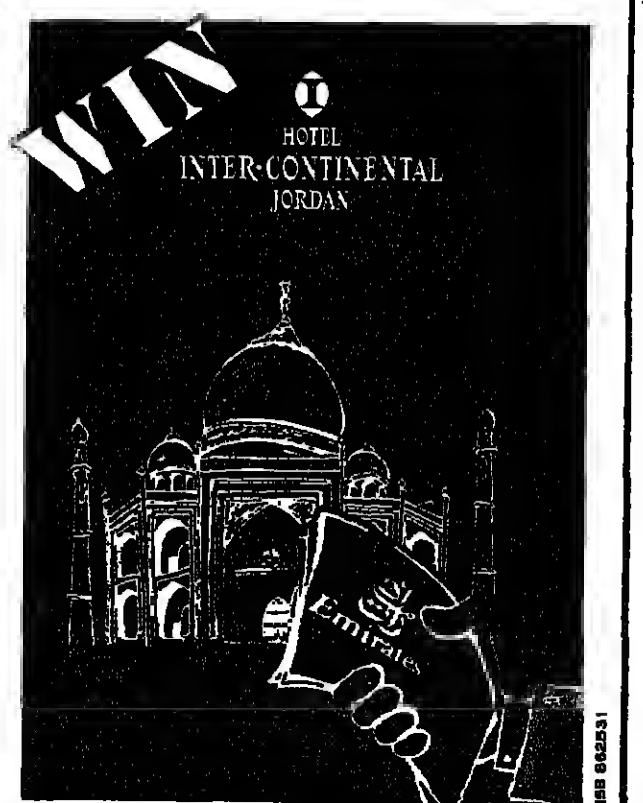
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Abu Shakra presents "Les Belles de Ricci" from Nina Ricci. ABU SHAKRA Trading Agency organised a press conference recently at the Forte Grand Hotel for presenting the new fragrance from Nina Ricci "Les Belles de Ricci". Mr. Rami Abu Shakra, General Manager, attended the conference with Mr. Patrick Bouchard from Nina Ricci. Mr. Abu Shakra said: We will always present the latest in perfumes and cosmetics, we seek to satisfy our clients. Mr. Bouchard welcomed the Abu Shakra Agency and presented the new fragrance by saying that Les Belles de Ricci is a new fragrance ready to break the rules. It is the new accomplice for all those young girls, who'll dare anything and are afraid of nothing. It is the indispensable fragrance from Nina Ricci for all those young girls who, in spite of everything, attack life with gusto. The fragrance is the tomato from Provence, its leaves, its flowers, its fruit. An impetuous and refined choice of shimmering fruit and leafy greenness, of crystal clear fun and games that are quite simply invigorating while developed in Nina Ricci perfume's finest tradition of excellence. An amazing and sophisticated choice to counteract set ideas on fragrance but definitely expressing today's desire to take grim reality with a smile. "Les Belles de Ricci" is for all those women that have a young spirit.



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Egyptian police charge 11 Muslim Brothers

CAIRO (AP) — State prosecutors on Sunday charged 11 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group, with attempting to overthrow the government and inciting students to march against Israel, police said.

The members, who included a doctor and a high school principal, were arrested Friday in Beni Suef, a town 120 kilometres south of Cairo, said the sources, who spoke under customary condition of anonymity. Police gave no explanation for the delay in announcing the arrests.

Police said they found leaflets in the defendants' homes that encouraged violence and marches to protest Israeli aggressions against Palestinians. The leaflets were apparently referring to the clashes that broke out between Israelis and Palestinians in the past four days over the opening of a tunnel in Jerusalem dug alongside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

It was not immediately clear what punishments the charges carried, but in August seven members were sentenced to three years in prison by a military court for membership in the organisation.

The men will remain in detention until they are brought to trial. No date for the trial has been given.

The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in 1928, has been banned since 1956. But successive Egyptian governments — mindful that it has thousands of followers — have tolerated it and allowed it to function openly.

But the government of President Hosni Mubarak has accused the Brotherhood of links with militants who have used violence since the spring of 1992 to install religious rule.

In the past 21 months, hundreds of the group's members have been detained for questioning.

Two sentenced to death

A court sentenced two people to death Monday for killing a high-ranking security officer and other policemen and carrying out assaults on law enforcement and government officials.

Anwar Hamid Abbas and Ahmed Abdul Wahab Khalil were tried with 16 other defendants on charges of carrying out the attacks in 1993 and 1994 and trying to overthrow the Egyptian government.

The state security court headed by Judge Ismail Hamdi postponed a decision in the cases of the other defendants until Oct. 31.

Abbas and Khalil were found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. As is customary, the verdict and sentences were announced simultaneously.

The prosecutors said Abbas and Khalil were responsible for the killing of 63 people during two years of extremist operations in Qena province and surrounding areas in southern Egypt.

Both defendants are members of the radical Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has led the violent campaign to topple Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

Among those whom they were accusing of killing was the assistant security head of Qena province. He was slain in an ambush along with several aides and five civilians in 1993.

Under Egyptian law the sentence should be endorsed by the mufti, the highest Islamic clergy before it is carried out.



PROTEST RALLY: Jordanian women held a rally outside the International Red Cross office in Amman on Sunday to protest Israeli actions in Arab East Jerusalem. Nearly 60 Palestinians and 14 Israeli soldiers were killed in three days of gunbattles and stone-throwing demonstrations across the West Bank and Gaza Strip this week, triggered by Israel's opening of an archaeological tunnel near Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque (Reuters photo)

Taleban seal border with Pakistan, take control of Masood territory

Combined agency dispatches

THE TALEBAN army that new controls most of Afghanistan closed the main border crossing with Pakistan on Monday, after the Pakistanis refused to yield to a demand to allow free movement across the frontier.

The dispute emerged on the same day Pakistan's foreign minister was quoted as saying his country recognised the Taleban as Afghanistan's legitimate government. Taleban fighters stormed into the Afghan capital Friday, ousting the forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, in an operation widely believed to have been backed by Pakistan.

Thousands of people were stranded on both sides of the Torkham frontier post when the Afghan side of the crossing was closed without notice at about mid-day.

Taleban fighters refused entry to a convoy of 25 trucks laden with humanitarian supplies from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Pakistani border guards

fired over the heads of some 400 Afghans who tried to storm across the border on foot. No one was hurt by the bullets, but two people were injured in the ensuing scramble.

Pakistani officials at the border said Taleban officials had demanded that anyone be able to drive or walk through without documents. Pakistan refused, saying only Afghans with papers showing they were refugees living in Pakistan can enter Pakistan.

Pakistan had in the past been relaxed about border formalities, but tightened requirements in recent months.

Pakistan is Afghanistan's largest trade partner. Almost all food and other supplies go overland through the Torkham crossing.

The Taleban, a movement that grew out of the religious schools of Afghan refugees in Pakistan two years ago, has vowed to rule Afghanistan by strict Islamic law. The group controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, which has been fractured by factional fighting.

Historically, Pakistan has always recognised the Kabul regime as the de facto government of Afghanistan, and have extended friendship and cooperation to the government in Kabul, the English-language Muslim daily quoted Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asf Ali as saying Monday.

Mr. Ali said Pakistan had been "doing business with every government in Kabul... (and) saw no reason to depart from this practice."

Pakistan is widely believed to be the prime backer of the Taleban. So far, Islamabad is the only capital to have welcomed the new regime.

Also on Monday, the Taleban captured the stronghold of former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood and punched east into the strategic Panjsher Valley.

Taleban commanders and aid workers said Taleban fighters stormed into Jalalabad, 70 kilometres north of Kabul, just after midnight following a three-hour battle.

Inside the town, Taleban fighters shot a commander of Former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction identified as Karim Karabagh, aid workers reported.

Taleban forces then headed towards Gorbahar 10 kilometres east of Jalalabad at the foot of the Panjsher Valley, where Mr. Masood held off Soviet forces during their occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

"Fighting is going on in Gorbahar now," said Mohammad Gul, deputy Taleban commander of a military barracks near Kabul. "Most of Gorbahar is under the control of the Taleban."

He said the Taleban planned to seize all the territory held by the former government.

"We intend to capture all the former government areas, including the Salang Tunnel and the Panjsher," he said.

The latest Taleban advance followed the capture on Sunday of the lightly defended town of Charkhar, about 10 kilometres north of the previous frontline at Bagram.

Government: Role for opposition hinges on respect for programme

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has not closed the door on opposition participation in the executive authority but insists that any inclusion of opposition members in the Council of Ministers should be based on their commitment to respecting and honouring the government's programme. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

The minister, addressing a regular weekly press briefing, also said the government was continuing consultations with all parties on a new election law but had not reached a point where a draft legislation could be sent to Parliament (See Islamists reaction on page 3).

"We are committed to changing the election law as we have undertaken in the government policy programme," submitted to Parliament early this year, Dr. Muasher said.

"The government is continuing its contacts with all parties concerned on changing the election law with a view to securing a strong majority support (for the change)," said the minister. "We are seeking a broad consensus of all parties over the issue, but we have not reached that point yet."

He did not elaborate on the main points favoured by the government for inclusion in the draft law.

Other official sources said the government, while it was open to all suggestions from the opposition, will not abandon the one-person, one-vote system.

"This is one point over which the government will not compromise," said an official source. "All other issues could be debated in Parliament."

According to the source, no draft election law has been discussed by the Cabinet.

The source, who did not want to be identified, also pointed out that the priorities of the government were, at this point in time, "the economic laws, the fiscal budget (for 1996), the companies law, the stock market law and other legislation which are key to the national economy."

Dr. Muasher noted that Parliament would begin its annual regular session on Nov. 19 but he did not make clear whether the government hoped to present the new election law to the legislature during the session, which ends in March.

Given that the next parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in the summer of 1997, a new election law or amendments to the present legislation should be enacted before that, observers noted.

Dr. Muasher was asked at the briefing whether the government still planned to invite opposition groups into joining the Cabinet. In reply, Dr. Muasher noted that the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the main opposition group, had issued a public statement ruling out joining the Cabinet.

In any event, he said, "the prerequisite for any group joining the government is a commitment to the government's policy programme."

Without such a commitment, no group could be included in the government since such an inclusion will be contradictory in itself, he pointed out.

He also rejected suggestions that the government had cut off dialogue with the opposition and said the problem was with the opposition.

Dr. Muasher described as an irony that the opposition was levelling such accusations while it was also calling for the resignation of the government.

"How could these two positions be compatible?" he asked.

Europe, shut out of U.S. summit, invites Arafat

PARIS (R) — The European Union (EU), angry at being shut out of an Arab-Israeli peace summit called by the United States, invited Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Monday to meet its foreign ministers before he goes to Washington.

Despite intensive French efforts to win a bigger Middle East role, President Bill Clinton excluded the Europeans from the summit line-up when he asked leaders of Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Egypt and Jordan to Washington after a wave of violence sparked by the opening of an Israeli tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem.

The snub irritated some European governments, who are the main paymasters of the U.S.-dominated peace process but have been denied a high-profile political role ever since the 1991 Madrid peace conference which launched it.

EU and PLO officials said Mr. Arafat, who has asked Mr. Clinton to delay the summit, would meet the so-called troika of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday night. The troika comprises the past, present and next holders of the EU's rotating presidency — Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands.

The French foreign ministry said Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette would meet Mr. Arafat in Luxembourg on Tuesday, the day the Washington summit is due to start.

Mr. De Charette vented frustration in a radio interview on Sunday at Europe's exclusion from the Washington summit.

"That is certainly unfortunate," he said. "That is certainly not a positive step for things to go forward."

But not everyone shared French pique. British officials said Washington had coordinated closely with the Europeans, even if the EU was not at the table.

"We welcome the prospect

of the summit. It seems perfectly sensible that it should be held under the auspices of the United States," a British Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelbald said the Washington meeting would be only "a curtain-raiser for negotiations that will take place in the Middle East under the auspices of (Egyptian) President Hosni Mubarak."

"It is regrettable that we will not be there for the curtain raising. The European Union has its place in the peace process. It is bound to be part of a peace settlement because it finances 75 per cent of aid to the Palestinian territories," he said.

Diplomats said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Mubarak had sought to include France or the EU's Irish presidency in the summit line-up but had met with a flat refusal of the United States and Israel.

The three major EU powers, France, Britain and Germany, made an unprecedented joint appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat last Friday to resume top-level peace negotiations immediately. Unlike the United States, which has refrained from public criticism of the Jewish state, they called for the closure of the Israeli tunnel which triggered last week's violence.

It was the first such joint foreign policy initiative by the "big three," and was aimed at maximising European influence and respond to complaints that the EU is too slow and powerless in reacting to crises close to its borders.

Leading German Middle East expert Professor Udo Steinbach of the German Institute for Oriental Studies in Hamburg said it was a matter of regret that Europe was not represented at the summit since "Europe pays the lion's share of aid to the Palestinians."

PELE BECOMES FATHER OF TWINS

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Former Brazilian soccer superstar Pele became the father of twins — one boy and one girl — Saturday evening, a spokeswoman for the Sao Luiz Hospital in Sao Paulo said Sunday. The twins, Joshua and Celeste, were born at just over 30 weeks and each weighed just under three pounds (1.30 kg). Doctors had been planning to deliver the babies after Oct. 5 but carried out the emergency cesarean operation after Pele's wife began to feel pains, the spokeswoman said. Both mother and babies are doing well, she added. "The babies are perfect. We are taking the normal precautions as they were born prematurely but everything is fine," Pele, aged 55 and now Brazil's special sports minister, told local radio.

Widow fights for right to husband's sperm

LONDON (R) — A British woman is fighting a legal battle for permission to try to become pregnant through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) with her dead husband's sperm, the Guardian newspaper reported Monday. The 30-year-old woman, who was not named, asked doctors to remove sperm from her husband before switching off his life support machine after he died last year from a bacterial meningitis. But Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which provoked a row earlier this year when it ordered the destruction of thousands of human foetuses created for IVF which had passed a legal deadline, says she cannot use the sperm because her dead husband had not given written permission. The woman's case will be heard in the High Court in London Wednesday and she could face costs of more than £80,000 (\$124,900) if she loses. She and her husband, who married in 1991, had been trying to have a baby since the beginning of 1995 but he died before she could conceive, the Guardian said.

The woman's case will be heard in the High Court in London Wednesday and she could face costs of more than £80,000 (\$124,900) if she loses. She and her husband, who married in 1991, had been trying to have a baby since the beginning of 1995 but he died before she could conceive, the Guardian said.

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Arafat needs political gains after crisis...

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Forces last week had not died in vain. "Arafat cannot ignore the fact there are about 60 Palestinian martyrs," Mr. Kanafani said. "The Washington summit has to be a successful meeting with concrete results on advancing peace and implementing peace deals."

Political analyst Khalil Al-Shiqaqi said that, with frustration building up among Palestinians, Mr. Arafat had no choice but confrontation.

"But he has a dilemma because, if demonstrations continue, he might lose control and, if he tries to rein it in quickly, he might not be able to capitalise on it," Mr. Shiqaqi said.

The Palestinians insist that Israel must close the tourist-archaeological tunnel whose opening in Arab East Jerusalem triggered the violence and start implementing self-rule deals, including a partial troop pullout from the West Bank town of Hebron.

"If these issues are not solved soon, Mr. Arafat has no option but to escalate in response and the whole peace process will collapse and the whole region will flare up in flames," said

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected calls to close the tunnel, reopened on Sunday after a two-day break for the Jewish Sabbath. Citing "security" concerns, he also says the Hebron redeployment accord must be modified to protect Jewish settlers more effectively.

"The question is: if Mr. Netanyahu persists in his intransigence, will Mr. Arafat adopt a confrontational line or the wait-and-see approach which he tried and proved a failure," Mr. Shiqaqi said. "Of course the only option is confrontation."

Only months ago, Mr. Arafat risked popular support in the West Bank and Gaza by ordering his 30,000-man paramilitary forces to crack down on militant groups trying to sabotage the peace process by carrying out suicide bombings in Israel.

This time, he restored his credibility among many Palestinians by allowing his forces to shoot at Israeli soldiers during clashes in which rock-throwing Palestinians were wounded by Israeli gunfire.

U.N. envoy Terje Larsen who is trying to mediate in the crisis.

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...as Netanyahu seeks no-violence pledge

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hopes to win a commitment from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at a Washington meeting this week to remove violence as an option in the making of Middle East peace.

But the right-wing Israeli leader said he had no plans to close a controversial Jerusalem tunnel, the opening of which enraged Palestinians and sparked four days of Arab-Israeli violence that claimed more than 70 lives.

"We can first of all bring a new vitality, a new commitment to the peace process," Mr. Netanyahu told CNN on Sunday after he accepted an invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton to meet Mr. Arafat in Washington.

"In practical effect, I think we should achieve two principles: one, an immediate and permanent cessa-

tion of violence and hostilities and two, an accelerated return to negotiations," he said.

Israel's opening of the tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, whose final status is hotly disputed between Israelis and Arabs, combined with festering Palestinian frustration over Mr. Netanyahu's policies to ignite last week's clashes.

Mr. Netanyahu has accused Mr. Arafat of instigating the violence, which has since died down, to pressure his right-wing government into making peace concessions.

Palestinians say they are fed up by what they describe as Mr. Netanyahu's foot-dragging in implementing peace deals, especially Israel's promised troop redeployment in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Asked if he would close the tunnel, Mr. Netanyahu told CNN: "I don't

know. Would you tear down the Washington monument or stop the Vietnam memorial if somebody says they have a problem with it?"

The tunnel, he added, is "not on my table and it won't be on my table."

Mr. Clinton said both Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat had accepted his invitation, but a Palestinian official said Mr. Arafat was insisting that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak must also attend the talks, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

A White House spokesman confirmed that Mr. Clinton had spoken to Mr. Arafat, Mr. Netanyahu, King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak, adding that the United States "fully expects" Mr. Arafat to come to Washington, regardless of Mr. Mubarak's presence.

Mr. Netanyahu told CNN: "I don't